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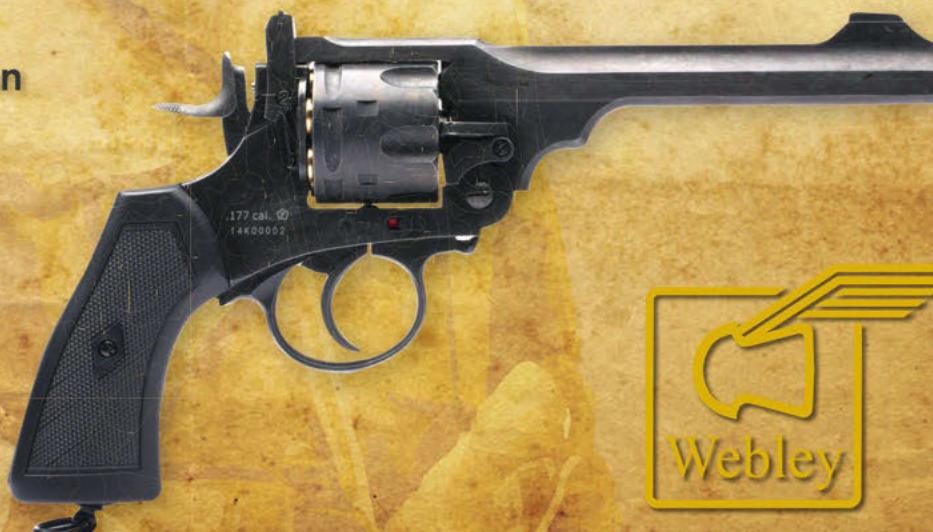
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# GOODBYE FROM THE EDITOR



**A**fter seven years and 88 issues it is time for me to call it a day and say goodbye to Air Gunner. I will be moving on to do something completely different with Haymarket Publishing, the company I worked with before I came to work at Archant. Little did I know that I would go from reading Air Gunner to being its editor and my time here has been fantastic.

As this is my last edition, I thought it might be nice to revive an old feature, 'My Airgunning Roots' and tell you about my life in airguns. This month I've also 'come clean' and written about my favourite airgun, the Air Arms S400. Of course there are many airguns that I love, but the S400 for me offers superb performance as well as value for money. Check one out if you get the chance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors. They all have full-time jobs and write for the magazine because of the love of their hobby. Producing a feature can be a lengthy process and how they manage to fit that

in with other work and family commitments, I don't know.

I would also like to thank editor-in-chief, Terry Doe, for employing me and for all his help over the years. Special mention must go to our unsung hero, Rosie Barham, author, chef, proof reader and all round good egg, who polices our grammar and tactfully puts us right.

Phill Price, whose knowledge and enthusiasm have contributed greatly to the magazine, will become the new editor and I know he will take the magazine to even greater heights.

Finally, I would like to thank

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**NEWSAGENT - Air Gunner is on sale on the first Wednesday of the month and is distributed by Seymour**

*Matt*

EDITOR

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# IN THE NEWS

For the very latest news visit us at  
[www.airgunshooting.co.uk](http://www.airgunshooting.co.uk)

## Daystate Pulsar

Out in Las Vegas at the S.H.O.T Show, Daystate took the opportunity to launch their radical new Pulsar pre-charged pneumatic bullpup. There's no mistaking that this is a brand new gun and very different from anything else in their catalogue. Inside, it uses technology derived from the MK4 iS which includes a computer-controlled hammer and an electronic trigger. This makes great sense for a bullpup because its remote location is no challenge at all. They simply run the wires to where they're needed with no mechanical connection. The looks have divided opinion, but those who've seen it in the flesh say it's a handsome gun. We're begging for a test rifle every day so look out for our review soon

[www.daystate.com](http://www.daystate.com)



## British Recoiling Gun Championships

To honour the memory of shooting champion Paul James, Anston Field Target Club is holding a competition for spring/piston recoiling guns on the 29th of March.

There will be a 40-shot course set to NEFTA/WL rules with targets from 8 to 55 yards, including many reduced kill zone ones.

*Paul James is remembered in this new competition*



All the money raised from the competition will go to the Prince of Wales Hospice that cares for patients with life-limiting illness, and their families.

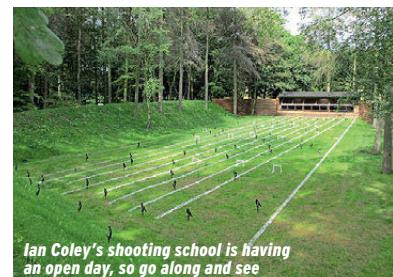
To find out how you can take part visit the website for full details: [www.britishrecoilingchampionship.co.uk](http://www.britishrecoilingchampionship.co.uk)

## Ian Coley

On Saturday the 11th of April Ian Coley shooting grounds will be having an open day where you'll be able to compete on Promatic Sharp-Shooter targets to win a Weihrauch HW99S as first prize. The new ranges have been well received and the company is keen for as many people to try them as possible. BSA and Weihrauch will have staff on hand at the show, demonstrating their guns, where

you can try before you buy. There's catering on site and the gun shop will be open all day to satisfy you with some retail therapy too. The range is at Andoversford near Cheltenham and is easy to find.

[www.iancoley.co.uk](http://www.iancoley.co.uk)



*Ian Coley's shooting school is having an open day, so go along and see*

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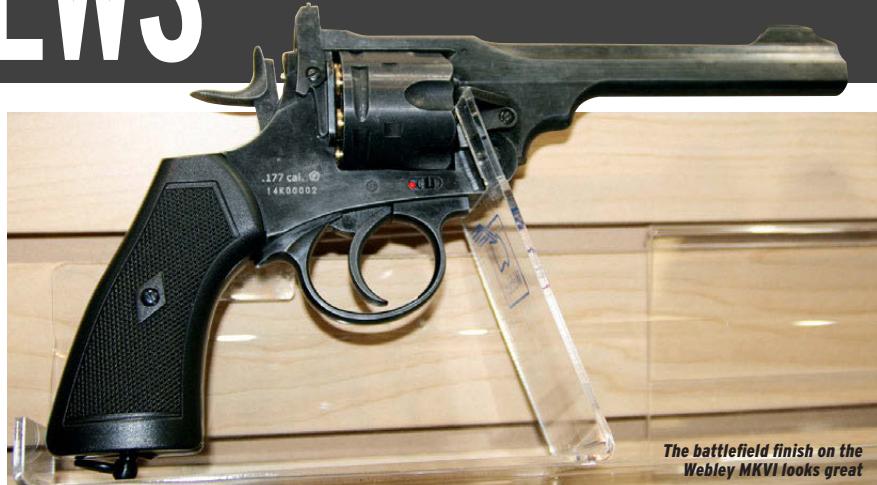
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# IN THE NEWS

## Battlefield finish

Webley's MKVI revolver is flying off the shelves with its stunning looks and perfect replica details. They've just announced a new version featuring a battlefield finish that makes the gun look antique, with all the wear and tear marks of a service revolver. This adds greatly to the appeal for collectors who prefer their guns to look aged, as though they've had a hard life. Webley also has a leather holster to fit and plenty of spare shells for fast reloads.

[www.hIGHLANDOUTDOORS.CO.UK](http://www.hIGHLANDOUTDOORS.CO.UK)



The battlefield finish on the Webley MKVI looks great



UKAHFT organiser, Pete Sparks, has let us know that the World HFT Championship will again be at the Kelmarsh Game Fair again this year, on the 5th and 6th of April and is already completely booked up. There will be 360 competitors from 11 countries adding to the international feel. This is a great event that has fierce competition, alongside the fun and comradeship that the sport is justly famed for.

## Cometa Lynx

After waiting years we've finally got our hands on a Cometa Lynx pre-charged pneumatic rifle. We saw it at the IWA show in Germany three years ago, yet it's taken this long for it to get AMTA anti-tamper approval, allowing it to be sold on the UK market. This is their first pre-charged gun and uses a small buddy bottle for air storage and side-lever action. As standard it's a single-shot with a neat pop-out carrier to load the

pellets. You have the choice to fit a magazine, which is simple, and makes the rifle ready for hunting. Up front, it comes fitted with a muzzle brake but this can be removed and replaced with a silencer of your choice. Our test gun is in and we'll bring you a fully detailed review next month.

[www.bisley-uk.co.uk](http://www.bisley-uk.co.uk)

After a long wait the Cometa Lynx is here



## Bear Grylls Rifle

World famous television survival expert Bear Grylls, has teamed up with Gamo airguns to produce a range of rifles, targets, pellets and a pistol. They're primarily aimed at encouraging youngsters to get into shooting, but there are models in the range that are suitable for hunting too.

The model in the photograph below is based on the Gamo Shadow DX which is

a full-size, full-power adult rifle. The soft inserts in the stock wear Bear's trademark bright orange, and his BG logo proudly on the side.

This is described as the Adventure Survival Set that includes pellets and targets and I could well see how this could provide meat in a survival situation.

Bear has a huge range of other BG

branded products from clothing to knives, machetes and torches, all of which he has chosen because they're tough and can be relied on when it really matters, so Gamo is proud to be included in the club.

Bear is Chief Scout and encourages young people to learn to shoot safely and responsibly. As an ex-soldier he has extensive shooting experience and we hope that his name will bring many new people into airgunning. In all good shops now.

A survival rifle? Bear Grylls says yes.

## ADVENTURE SURVIVAL SET



# WINNER!

The winner of the Weihrauch HW95 in February's competition is **Allan James** who texted in with the right answer, 'A'. The winner of our Hawke Scope competition is **Alan Burnham** who texted in with the right answer which was 'B'. See our latest comp on page 48.

## Next Game Fair

The 5th and 6th of April, the Easter Bank Holiday, will bring us the first big game fair of the year at Kelmarsh Hall in Northamptonshire. The later date than usual will be welcomed by many hoping for some warmer weather than in recent years, especially the hunter field target shooters who will be competing for the World Championship at the event. As ever, the show will feature every country sport, often with active displays in the arenas from

working dogs, horses and falcons, to name but a few. Shopping choices will be huge with retailers offering clothing, footwear, guns, and accessories, for every need and budget.

[www.kelmarshcountryshow.co.uk](http://www.kelmarshcountryshow.co.uk)



## Night Master IC Torches

Owners of Night Master torches can now buy an upgrade kit that converts them into dimmable models. It includes a new tail cap with the rotary control and a LED module that's dimmable. This makes the torches more flexible, allowing lower output for

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# YOUR LETTERS

**LETTER  
OF THE  
MONTH**

## First Airgun

I've been wanting a gun for about 10 years and never taken the step to actually purchase one. However, the last few months I decided it was time. I'm 30 years old and many

of my local gunshops have been quick to shove me off and I can't help but feel that they don't want to answer my questions. They give me short, blunt, one word responses and

the occasional eye roll, which might be due to my lack of knowledge. Undoubtedly, my questions are similar to those of a small child, but we've all got to start somewhere, right? Maybe they were having a bad day, as we all do. Nevertheless, many

magazines, YouTube videos and various shooting forums later, I've pursued my dream to own my first rifle and I'm now the proud owner of an Air Arms TX200HC in walnut and I love it!

**Lee Williams**  
Via email



Lee's new gun was well worth waiting for

## Hush

What do you think of my idea for keeping my neighbours happy? I use a silenced rifle, but the noise from a pellet-catcher I suspected would be very annoying. So I experimented with cardboard and newspaper to deaden the noise. It was better, but difficult to store and set up.

In a pet shop I saw the perfect thing – shrink wrapped blocks of compressed sawdust for pet rabbits etc. I wrapped one in parcel tape, put two large elastic bands round it to hold the targets (or you could use kebab skewers) propped it up at the bottom of the garden and it's almost silent even when hit by my old .22. When the holes begin to leak sawdust, a piece of parcel tape soon stops that, but they're cheap enough to replace anyway.

I've enclosed a couple of photos; one shows the contraption and the other the set-up at the end of my garden. The lower target holder is of soft meadow hay

for rabbits. I use it for pistol shooting mainly for indoors where it sucks in the low velocity pellets so avoiding annoying my wife by leaving bits of lead strewn about.

On another subject altogether, I'm an airgun instructor for the Scouts and do my best to get young people interested in the hobby and, as importantly, their parents on side. I'm responsible for buying rifles and pistols for my Scout Group. I recently bought four pistols (actually SMK XHS3s), which I tried and seemed perfect and indeed are very nice good value pistols. What I didn't realise was that the trigger (perfect for me) was too stiff for a child to pull and still retain any semblance of accuracy. An expensive mistake. What I'd like to see in airgun magazines is more for young people and especially suitable airguns at reasonable prices. They are, after all, our sport's future.

**Bill Sayer**  
Norwich

This is one way to keep your backyard plinking quiet



## Shooting Buddy

I just wanted to say a massive thank you for rolling out such a quality magazine time and time again.

I've been an avid small game hunter for around twelve years now. I'm totally self-taught, so probably do everything back to front and upside down, but I always seem to get good results.

The reason I'm emailing is, just over a year ago my best friend and hunting partner committed suicide; as a result I've just not been going out at all with my airguns.

I feel I'm now ready to get back in the field and miraculously I still have two golf courses and a farm that I have permission on.

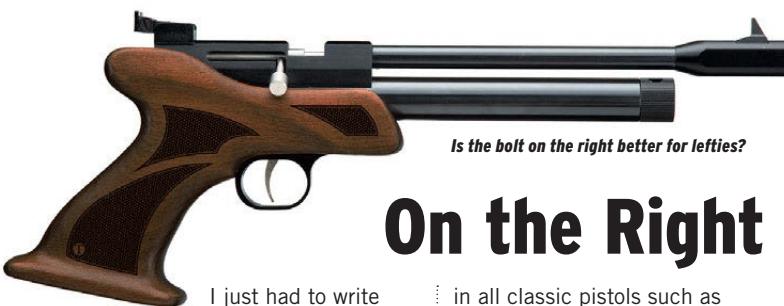
I was wondering if you knew of anyone in the

Buckinghamshire area who would like to shoot with me on Friday or Saturday nights. My techniques and kit may be a bit unorthodox, but I would love to find someone to hunt with regularly and exchange tips and ideas with.

I've recently treated myself to a Daystate Airwolf in .22 and night sight, which I'm hoping will prove to be a useful addition in my quest to control the rat and rabbit population on my permissions.

If you hear of anyone please get in touch, I love nothing more than getting out for a bit of lamping or a long walk around tracking my quarry.

**Louis Clark**  
Via email



## On the Right

I just had to write after reading James Grintons' email to the magazine. Every time I see a new air pistol I look to see if it's left- or right-handed and I saw the new Trophy pistol from the Shooting Party is a left-handed one.

Let me explain: If you look at a couple of examples like the Trophy and the Brocock Grandprix, which are described as 'target orientated' you will see that the cocking handle is on the right-hand side, meaning that they are easier for left-handed people to cock. But look at pistols such as my first proper match pistol, a FEB 80 with its side-lever on the left so that the grip doesn't leave the shooting hand, and then look at my current pistol, a Steyr LP10 which again has its controls on the left. You can see this trait

in all classic pistols such as the Colt 45 auto or the Luger etc. Even the Colt Peacemaker often called a left-handed gun because of Sam Colt's supposed left-handedness can be loaded while being held in the right hand.

I would only ask you to look at your photo of a Brocock with a scope on it to see how awkward it is for a right-hander to operate without removing the right hand from the grip. Any pistol shooter will tell you that the most important thing is to establish your grip and make it consistent; not easy when you keep moving your hand.

Sorry about the rant but I'd have bought both of these pistols if they'd been right-handed.

**Paul V Scourfield**  
South Wales

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[matthew.clark@archant.co.uk](mailto:matthew.clark@archant.co.uk)

# Weighty Problem

I really identified with your piece on the HW95 especially where you say that you bought an HW 80 and should have opted for a HW95K. I made the same error many years ago as a 17-year-old. I was captivated by the HW80 and as soon as I could afford one I was knocking on my local gunshop door.

All my shooting was pest control and hunting and I enjoyed shooting on several large permissions. I always found the HW80 too heavy to lug about all day and never knew about the correct way to shoot springers, having been taught to shoot full-bore and rimfire rifles in the air cadets. Eventually the accuracy came and I attained a level of consistency that meant I was happy to take live quarry confidently. I put all this down to the sadly departed John Darling and his writings. He taught me that unless a particular pest needs eradicating, then only take enough

to control the numbers, so one species doesn't dominate.

Thank you again for the excellent writing from you and your team.

**Colin Raeside**

Via email



## On Target

About nine months ago I was in W.H.Smith looking at all the airgun magazines. I picked up an issue of Air Gunner and that was it! Three airguns later and after building my own shooting range in my back garden, I am totally sold on target shooting.

How all this passed me as I was growing up is beyond me. As a newbie to this hobby, the next step was to join a gun club. I have sent off numerous

emails to different clubs in the Bristol area, but not received a single reply. Where are these friendly clubs you talk about in your magazine? Are they a secret society or what? I would like to hone what skills I have, talk to like-minded people and not lose any enthusiasm for this wonderful sport. Thanks for letting me bend your ear.

**Barry Jones**  
Via email

## Picking Up a Six

Just picked up the Webley Revolver I won from the January issue. Thank you to all at Air Gunner and Webley.

**John Lacy**

Via Text

*Ed – John, you are welcome. Thank you for letting us know it arrived safely. I love this pistol and have bought one myself, but watch this space because the Webley VI story isn't finished yet!*



**WIN**

If you have a top tip, something you'd like to get off your chest, or an interesting anecdote, then why not shoot us a line? We print the best letters and emails each month and one will be awarded a top prize.

This month it's a superb BSA Essencial hunting scope and mounts worth over £60 and you could win it simply by getting in touch and sharing your views

## Recipe for Success

I would like to see some recipes from your writers for things like rabbit, woodpigeon and squirrel.

**John Ripchensky**  
Canada

*Should Air Gunner include more recipes for our quarry? Watch this space...*



## The Tech Approach

I've been noticing the increase in expensive gadgets available for the hunter, for example, thermal imaging units, NV scopes, NV binoculars, rangefinders and so on. It appears to me that in the not so distant future the art of field craft will not come down to the amount of time you have

spent honing your skills in the field, but how deep your pockets go.

**Paul Rhodes**  
Derbyshire

*Are rangefinders and other high tech bits of kit going to replace traditional fieldcraft?*



# AIRGUN GURU



*If it's cold outside, put your gun in its slip at the end of the day and leave it in there when you get home, until the gun and slip reach the ambient temperature, before cleaning. This will help to reduce rust*



**Q** I want to buy a Weihrauch HW97. I went to my local gunshop and they have a new MKII version and an old MKI version. The second-hand MKI is a lot cheaper than the new rifle, but which rifle would give the best performance and value for money? Also, is there any real difference between the MKI and MKII version?

**A** GURU SAYS: I suspect that Weihrauch might not recognise the designations Mk.1 and 2 for the HW97; they most certainly did not for the HW77, and it seems it was UK enthusiasts who came up with the marks.

HW97s with serial numbers up to 1375964 had 25mm

cylinders and pistons; rifles beyond that serial number had 26mm cylinders and pistons. From memory, the 25mm piston weighs 210 grams, the 26mm 270 grams and, because the heavier the piston, the greater the recoil, the later version will have more recoil travel. For this reason, 25mm cylinder HW97s and HW77s are more sought-after by competition shooters than later rifles.

One area in which later rifles did score over early ones is the spring guide. Early HW97s were fitted with steel guides with folded end tabs that could do anyone stripping the rifle a mischief, if they slipped and flew out as the trigger block was removed. Later rifles were fitted with Delrin guides, which are

a lot safer for inexperienced airgun tinkerers to work with, and which do a better job of lessening mainspring twang.

In your case of an old 25mm HW97 versus a brand new one, the early rifle would be the one I would choose, but only if I could take a look inside first to ensure that the rifle had not attracted the attentions of someone who butchered the internals of the rifle in a bid to make it 'more powerful'. The new HW97 would offer the peace of mind of knowing that the only people ever to work on the rifle are Weihrauch.

**Q** I was out shooting earlier, in temperatures just above zero. When I returned home, I noticed condensation forming on the

## GET IN TOUCH

*Post your letters to: Letters, Air Gunner, 2-6 Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, RG40 2EG*

*matthew.clark@archant.co.uk*

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If you're hunting, training, or even plinking in the garden, try to finish every session on a positive note by hitting a practise target with a well-taken shot. This keeps your mindset positive and implants confidence for the next session.

cylinder and barrel of my rifle. Apart from the obvious (drying it and wiping it down with gun oil), how can I prevent my rifle from rusting in the winter?

**A** GURU SAYS: In very cold conditions, air is dense, and there is very little space for water molecules, so the air is dry. When you took the rifle inside, the air was much warmer and more humid (it contained more water molecules), and air next to the cold steel mixed with the humid air, forcing water molecules to coalesce into droplets on the surface of the steel.

The trick is to zip your rifle in a gun bag while you're outside, so it is surrounded by dry air, then take it indoors, and leave the bag sealed until the rifle has reached room temperature. Then give the steel a quick wipe with an oily rag. ■

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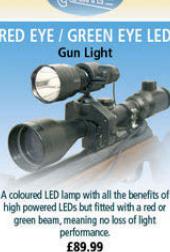
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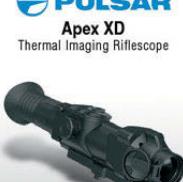
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# CAMBRIDGE BLUES

Gary Chillingworth tries not to let the Cambridge Diabolical get him down and looks forward to the Nationals

The Cambridge Diabolical hunter field target (HFT) can take many forms. These range from United Kingdom Association for Hunter Field Target (UKAHFT) which is the group standard, to extremes, such as Sporter Field Target (SFT) and there are various club rules competitions.

There is one shoot, however, which is breed apart and this is the

*Right: This HFT shooter seems to have taken a bit of a hammering*

Japanese haiku backwards. This is an exaggeration, but you get the idea.

## Take it to the Extreme

The Diabolical takes target shooting to the extreme and targets that are 60 to 70 yards plus are not uncommon. On top of this, the target placement can be a little tricky. You can guarantee that if there is a 40mm target on the



the side. There is a fair amount of humiliation, frustration and random swearing, and that's just from the women and children.

The event also attracts an international element and those wacky Dutch shooters have once again made the effort to come to the UK and shoot the Diabolical. On the way, they endured rough seas, motorway food and the driver of their car attempted to take it off road and remove the sump. However, a car was rented and they arrived to take part in the madness.

The course this year was a bit tamer than in years past and some people have suggested that Tony has mellowed in his old age. This may be true, but the Diabolical course still ripped most of us apart and spat us out.

## Saw Loser

After just nine shots, I had only killed one target and had completely missed five. To give you a small flavour of the course, I would like you to turn your attention to exhibit 'A'. This is a target and to hit this one you have to shoot your pellet through a 15mm hole in a saw blade. This pellet then has to travel through a hole in a tree before it reaches the target.

The entire day is about fun and laughter and if you come along and take yourself too seriously,

**"There is also a fair amount of humiliation, frustration and random swearing and that's just from the women and children"**

Cambridge Diabolical. The brainwave of Tony Hass, the Diabolical is exactly as its name suggests: diabolical. In the past, competitors have had to take shots standing on one leg, leaning against a tree whilst reciting a

*Below: Ingrid van Gemert is a regular visitor to the Diabolical*

course, you will only be able to see a tenth of it and if you have a 15mm target that is not obscured, then it will be at least 40 yards away.

The Diabolical is all about getting shooters outside their comfort zone and also having a bit of fun on



then you will have a bad day. I was destroyed not only by the course, but by a man with a springer (Rex Bennett), and my good friend, Alex Larkin.

There were, however, some stunning scores that came in and the top score of the day went to Kyle Hampton with a 49 and Kyle was shooting a springer. On hearing this, Tony Hass ritually disembowelled himself with a piece of bread pudding. Other great scores were in the junior section where Nia Preston took top honours.

If you ever fancy having a go at the Diabolical, come and join the insanity. Details can be found at [www.cambridgehft.com](http://www.cambridgehft.com)

### The 2015 UKAHFT series

The UKAHFT series is the premier airgun series in the United Kingdom. The people who shoot it are the best of the best of the best, but there are also people like Nigel Smith, who is the worst of the worst of the worst. Nigel is chief of the rabble; these are the second session shooters.

The UKAHFT encompasses nine rounds and we travel from

**Right: Team Holland made it to the event against all odds**

the depths of Sussex (Buxted) to the hillsides of Wales and even up to Rivington, which is on the outskirts of Bolton and Wigan. The Nationals are shoots like no other; they are fiercely competitive, but exceptionally friendly. The top shooters in the land are always happy to pass on help and advice to newcomers and no matter what your level, as long as you are

we have the strange ones (that's me) and yes, we have the annoying ones (that's James McLachlan) and yes we have a few that are normal, but these are few and far between.

### Head Honcho

The head honcho of the Nationals is professional Welshman, Pete Sparkes. I swear his accent gets stronger when

**"Pete has always said that everyone is welcome and it does not matter what you shoot, from a Gat to an EV2, the Nationals has a place for you"**

**Below: Jan Rynaveld uses his Air Arms S400 with great success**

safe, you are welcome at a National shoot.

If you have never shot a tournament before, then no problem, the organisers will put you with an old hand and they will show you the ropes. What I am trying to say is, that we are a big family and yes,

he speaks to an English person. Pete has always said that everyone is welcome and it does not matter what you shoot, from a Gat to an EV2, the Nationals has a place for you.

For 2015, things are looking good. Team Wild's top bod, Ian Harford, has taken on the role of trade liaison. Ian and Team Wild have taken airgun shooting to a new level and have travelled the world shooting everything from basic sub 12ft.lbs rifles





to 100ft.lbs. superguns. When it comes to all things airgunning, Ian is a man you should listen to. His role for 2015 is to beg, borrow or steal the prizes for the raffle at each round and we have high hopes for 2015.

This year we will be going back to the shoots we love, one of which is an old favourite, Emley Moor, the stomping ground of ex-National champion, Chris Cundey, and I hope that Chris and the Emley team put on a spectacular show.

The great thing about HFT is what it can do for us as shooters. For those of you who hunt, it will refine your skill as a shooter. For those who plink, it will give you a taste of competitive shooting and for those who just like to talk rubbish, eat a bacon roll and have a good time, then this is the home for you.

**Right:** Many of the Dutch shooters were using British airguns. Here we see Jeroen van Den Noordt with an Air Arms S200

**Below:** This is the dreaded circular saw blade

### Sorry Solware

If I have whet your appetite, then have a look at [www.ukahft.com](http://www.ukahft.com). Finally, I have an apology to make; the Nationals are supported by a great



team of sponsors and in my end-of-year write-up, I forgot to thank Solware, who have been more generous than anyone could have hoped for. Thank you Solware for your support in 2014 and 2015. ■

### 2015 UKAHFT NATIONAL SERIES

- R1 - 26th April - Quarry Hunters
- R2 - 16th May - FORT AGC
- R3 - 17th May - FORT AGC
- R4 - 28th June - Rivington
- R5 - 19th July - Buxted
- R6 - 22nd August - MAD
- R7 - 23rd August - MAD
- R8 - 27th September - Cambridge
- R9 - 18th October - Emley Moor
- Gathering - TBA

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Model	Calibre	Barrel length	Weight
HW100KT QF	.177 / .22	310mm	3.4kg
HW100T QF	.177 / .22	410mm	3.8kg
HW100KS QF	.177 / .22	310mm	3.4kg
HW100S QF	.177 / .22	410mm	3.8kg

WEIHRAUCH

# THE BIG TEST

ON THE FIRING LINE THIS MONTH:  
WALTHER ROTEX RM8



## ROTEX REVISITED

The Editor takes a second look at a rifle that is grabbing headlines around the world

Just a few short years ago, Walther stunned the airgun world with their LGV break-barrel, spring-piston rifles. They were like nothing else we'd seen from the brand, bringing a huge development budget and high-tech engineering to a part of the market that had changed little in years. They were an instant success, impressing even the most hardened springer crowd with something new to enjoy. This fantastic rifle was soon followed by the LGU which is an underlever variant designed to please those who prefer a fixed barrel with a sliding port to load the pellets. This was another instant hit and Walther's prestige in the high-quality rifle market took another step forward.

### PCP power

When the Rotex RM8 was announced, it was on one hand a surprise, but on the other to be expected. Pre-charged pneumatics are the kings of the hill these days, so it's logical that Walther would want one in their catalogue.

**Main:** The forward balance can be felt off hand

**"I noticed just how steady the Rotex is on aim while at the test range"**

**Below:** Hunters will want a silencer and the Rotex is ready to take one



The styling is unashamedly Germanic, something which people either love or hate, but the majority of people I've spoken to think it's a handsome gun.

Like almost all new rifles today, the

stock is ambidextrous, but the bolt action is right-handed only. The wood is fairly plain, but the complicated chequering patterns are sharply cut and well positioned for the average shooter, especially around the fore end, giving a really solid hold.

As you'll have seen from the pictures, the Rotex is fed air from a small buddy bottle, which is tucked into the fat fore end, improving looks and making it nicer to hold, especially in cold weather, when a metal bottle can be freezing against your skin. Between the bottle and the action is a synthetic guard that neatly covers the joint and smoothes out the lines.

I've never been a fan of buddy bottle looks, but on the RM8 it's half-hidden inside the fore end and therefore flows into the gun's lines more easily.

### Big gun

Despite its modest overall length and average (14½") pull distance, this feels like a big gun. Its 8lb weight is well forward, making it more noticeable, but this is typical of the way the Germans like to build their guns. Heavy is good in the eyes (hands?) of your average Teutonic shooter. Their airgun history has mainly been in target shooting where the extra weight has a stabilising effect, making accurate shooting easier. Pure target rifles are built as heavy as the rules allow. However, for hunters on their feet for hours at a time, a rifle that's too heavy can be tiring. Big, strong men will love the Rotex, but lighter-built chaps and ladies will want to handle a gun to decide if it's right for them.

As I've mentioned many times, I feel any hunting rifle needs a sling

to take the weight out of your hands and leave them free to use your binoculars, and I don't know how you'd fit one to the Rotex. The butt could easily be drilled to accept a swivel stud, but the fore end is very thin just below the bottle and could not be drilled. Perhaps one of the add-on clamps that attach to the bottle might work, but manufacturers I've spoken to always tell me that you should never use them. As I write this, I don't have a solution.

### Steady as she goes

Going back to the rifle's weight, I noticed just how steady the Rotex

is on aim while at the test range. It settled into the bench bags nicely, allowing me to focus on sight picture and trigger control. I fitted a Walther PRS (Precision Rifle Scope) 2-12 x 44 in my favoured Sportsmatch double-clamp mounts so aiming duties were solid. I think the broad fore end also added to the stability, reducing the rifle's side-to-side movement. With the bottle filled to 232bar and a few tins of top-class pellets at my elbow, I got down to some serious accuracy testing and was soon smiling.

I love an accurate rifle and the Rotex is just that. It shot H&N FTT, Crosman Premiers, Superdomes and

Bisley Magnums well, but the Air Arms Field pipped them all with some lovely tight groups at all distances. At 25 yards, most shots were touching and at 40 yards they could still all be covered with a one-pound coin. This is proper hunting accuracy and is as good as almost any rifle out there today, which is truly impressive. A Lothar Walther barrel must surely get much of the credit for that, but the rifle still needs a consistent power unit and a decent trigger to complete the package.

The trigger was

*Main: The squirrel ran up a tree but I could still see it*



**"Pre-charged pneumatics are the kings of the hill these days**



very light for a factory setting at just over lbs, which surprised me. This weight is fine for experienced digits, but a little light for beginners. The second stage is rather long and would benefit from the attention of a good gunsmith to shorten it a little. This would make it more predictable but judging by the groups I was getting, it wasn't holding me back.



**Right:** Although the mag' looks simple it's actually pretty clever

**Bottom left:** The bolt indexes the magazine on the forward stroke

**Bottom Right:** A probe connector makes filling quick and easy

## Consistency

Over my Skan chronograph I saw an average of 756fps with the 8.44 grain Air Arms Field which means 10.7ft. lbs. Shot-to-shot velocity variation was 15fps over 50 shots which is fine, and I'm sure will improve as the gun settles down. Many people worry too much about velocity and my long-range groups show that this rifle's spread had no ill effects at all.

To the ear, the firing cycle is a little unusual. It gives a soft, slightly rubbery noise which becomes more noticeable once a silencer is fitted. Like all pre-charged pneumatics, the Rotex exhibits quite a sharp crack as high-pressure air exits behind the pellet. The muzzle has a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " UNF thread hidden under a knurled thread protector onto which you can fit the silencer of your choice. If you loosen the grub screw under the muzzle weight,



you can slide it off, which suited me as I didn't need any more weight at the muzzle. With a light silencer fitted and the weight removed the balance felt identical.

With the silencer fitted, the outfit was lovely and quiet. Often inexpensive pre-charged guns have strange spring vibrations and odd clunks as they're fired which you only notice in a quiet environment with a silencer on, but the Rotex had nothing but a muted thud. Just how much that affects our quarry I don't know, but I know it affects me. I like quiet guns because they feel well engineered. With the exception of the plastic safety slide, the Rotex has a nice solid feeling that gives confidence that it will take the hard knocks that hunting always inflicts on rifles.

## Hunter

It's clear that Walther saw this as a hunting gun from day one because of the multi-shot action. Nestled in the middle of the action is a neat aluminium magazine that's as simple as can be. In its centre is a drive gear that's indexed by the action, unusually, on the forward stroke of the bolt's movement. My sample was a little notchy from the box but was becoming smoother in use. To load the mag you simply press eight pellets in, where they're held firmly but gently by a soft band that's stretched around the mag'. This is a small detail but one that impressed me greatly.

Many mags' use a thin 'O' ring that the head of the pellet must pass to be held securely. Some pellets are too short to reach this and can therefore fall out. The broad band of the Rotex assures that any pellet once inserted is properly gripped, and keeping them in place prevents jams and failures.

The loading side of each chamber



**"I'm seriously impressed with this rifle but I've saved the best for last"**



*Right: I was surprised to find the safety is manual*

*Left: From the bench, accuracy was everything I could have hoped for*

## SPECS

**Manufacturer** Walther

**Importer** Armex

**Web** [www.armex.co.uk](http://www.armex.co.uk)

**Tel** 0121 643 4900

**Model** Rotex RM8

**Type** Pre-charged

pneumatic

**Action** Magazine-fed bolt

action

**Length** 41" (1040mm)

**Weight** 7.95lbs (3.6kg)

**Trigger** Two-stage

adjustable

**Safety** Manual

**Fill pressure** 232bar

**Shots per fill** - up to 140

**Price** £420.00

**Scope** Walther PRS

2-12x44

**Price** £279.00

**RRP £419.99**



or never and a clean head shot put it in the bag. Straight after that I manfully gave up and went indoors for a cup of tea. I was frozen! I always feel a fool if I dress incorrectly and end up miserable because I have all the right gear at home, I just need to remember to put it on.

As you'll have gathered by now, I'm seriously impressed with this rifle but I've saved the best for last. It's well engineered with some clever innovations thrown in for good measure. It's seriously accurate, by which I mean right up there with the big boys yet costs just £420. Yes, you did read that right; less than half the price of some of its competitors. Sure, it's not as slick and refined, but it will put your pellet precisely where you want it, which is the whole point of shooting. I believe that this rifle will

open the door to the joys of owning a pre-charged rifle to a whole new group of shooters and for that I say, well done, Walther! ■



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# A LOAD OF SLEET

Eddie Jones battles the weather, but will he bag anything?



*Left: Supported nicely by a V-shaped branch, Eddie was able to get a bead on his quarry*

*Below: Eddie's Jack Pyke camo really blends in well with his surroundings as he takes a shot*

**H**opefully, by the time you read this, the recent snowfall and high winds will be a distant memory. To produce a feature for the next issue it was imperative that I got out on my next few days off. The forecast was for heavy snow with 30mph gusts of wind thrown in. Normally, I would give it a miss in these conditions - any sane person would - but I had no choice because the magazine deadline was pressing. The day I'd chosen to hunt was one with frequent snow showers, but with the odd chance of sun in between. The wind was still going to be a problem, but it was the breaks I was interested in because I needed to take pictures.

D-Day finally arrived and I set out at 5:30am to get to my ground. I wanted to get there early so I could be in position for any early feeders of either fur or feather. The 40-minute drive was not too bad; a few snow flurries on the way, but nothing heavy at least. The roads were pretty clear too, so I

was in high hopes that the forecasters had got it wrong and the snow would hold off.

It was cold so I decided a stop at Mr MacDonald's was in order. I needed warm food to survive the harsh conditions, right? Well, that's my excuse. A couple of muffins later, I set off for the last leg of the journey. This was when the day started to turn for the worse. I had just sat back in the car when the snow started to come down heavily, flakes the size of beer mats, and it soon settled. I carried on gingerly to the ground and parked up in the hope that it would stop very soon so I could get ready.

## Crack of Dawn

Dawn had now started to break and I could see blue sky replacing pitch black over the hill. I knew I had to get changed into my hunting clothes no matter what, so I pulled down the back seat and got my gear on in the car because it was so cold. It was nearly

light by the time I'd got ready to go outside. The snow was still falling but I had to go and try to shoot something. I reached a small plantation that has produced rabbits, squirrels and pigeons in the past. If I was going to get something it was going to be there. I could have gone into the thicker wood, but the conifer trees here are so thick it is impossible to find your quarry once it lands or runs into them. The plantation is middle ground and quite often I have walked through and shot some vermin.

## Snow and Sleet

Today was going to be hard because of the snow flurries. I had already wiped the scope lens to find that a pigeon had landed near me, but it was no use taking a shot because within seconds I couldn't see a thing again. A couple of snowflakes were all it needed to obscure the view. The pigeon had no trouble seeing me as I wiped the scope again and it soon took to the skies to find a safer spot.

As I was walking to some taller trees that the pigeons sit in, I noticed a bush that was covered in ivy. This was a welcome makeshift hide for me because the snow was now turning to sleet. I had been under this bush





NEVER GIVE UP





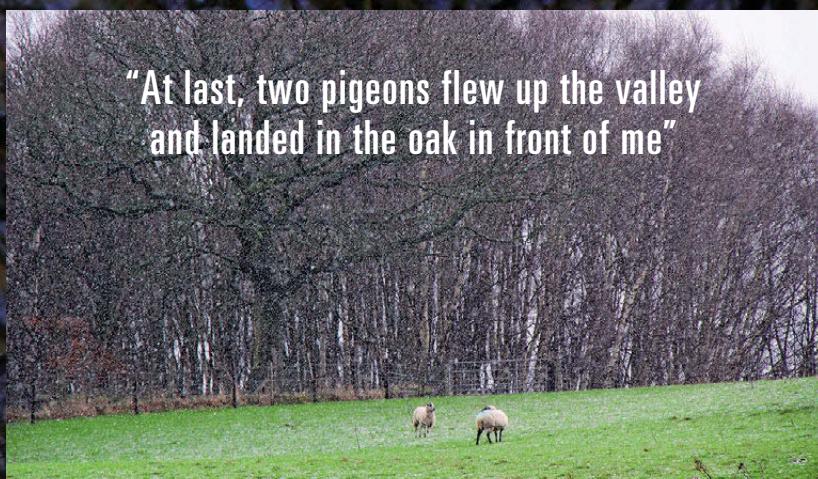
**Left: Supported shots are always the most successful**

**Far left: Result! Against all odds, Eddie got a woodie**

**Background: The weather didn't bode well for the hunting trip**

**Right: As the weather closed in it looked as if Eddie was going home empty-handed**

**Below: A small bag right at the last knockings**



**"At last, two pigeons flew up the valley and landed in the oak in front of me"**

for a good hour and had seen plenty of pigeons as well as a squirrel, but they were all out of range. The trouble with this kind of shooting is, you never get the chance to creep up on them. You watch numerous pigeons fly in the trees further away, but sneaking up on 20 pairs of eyes is way harder than watching one fly into your spot and being ready for it. It all gets very frustrating, but if the conditions are against you then what else can you do but try everything?

### Location Location

At last, two pigeons flew up the valley and landed in the oak in front of me. I had seen roughly where they had dropped in, so all I had to do was pinpoint their exact location. The sleet had

**"I decided to call it a day. I was beat; I could endure cold hands no longer"**

stopped and I had no trouble raising the scope and getting them in my sights. I found one pretty quickly. It sat right at the top of the tree, rocking about in the wind. It amazes me why a pigeon would rather be tossed around like a rag doll in the wind instead of sitting on a thicker branch and being more comfortable. I struggled to get a clear shot and was getting really frustrated. It is so easy to lose focus in these situations and take a shot, but you face a chance of injuring the bird so it's always best to do the right thing and leave it. Unfortunately, the sleet started again and the pigeons flew to the wood.

I have been in this situation a lot lately and I know being patient pays, something will come along eventually. I decided to move. I watched numerous pigeons flying into trees further down the plantation, and I had been in the snow and sleet for some time. Even with

warm dry clothing, my hands were getting cold. I needed something to warm the blood. It's not all about the kill, although it is nice to get the end product. If you have done everything you can to get the pest in the scope, it is not your fault if the wind is too strong or there is a branch in front of the kill zone. I had been unfortunate to get a couple in my sights only to be beaten by the conditions again. The sleet was relentless and my cloth was doing nothing to help to clean the scope now because it was soaking.

### Remains of the Day

I decided to call it a day. I was beat; I could endure cold hands no longer. I could have worn thicker gloves, but I like to feel my trigger and will always

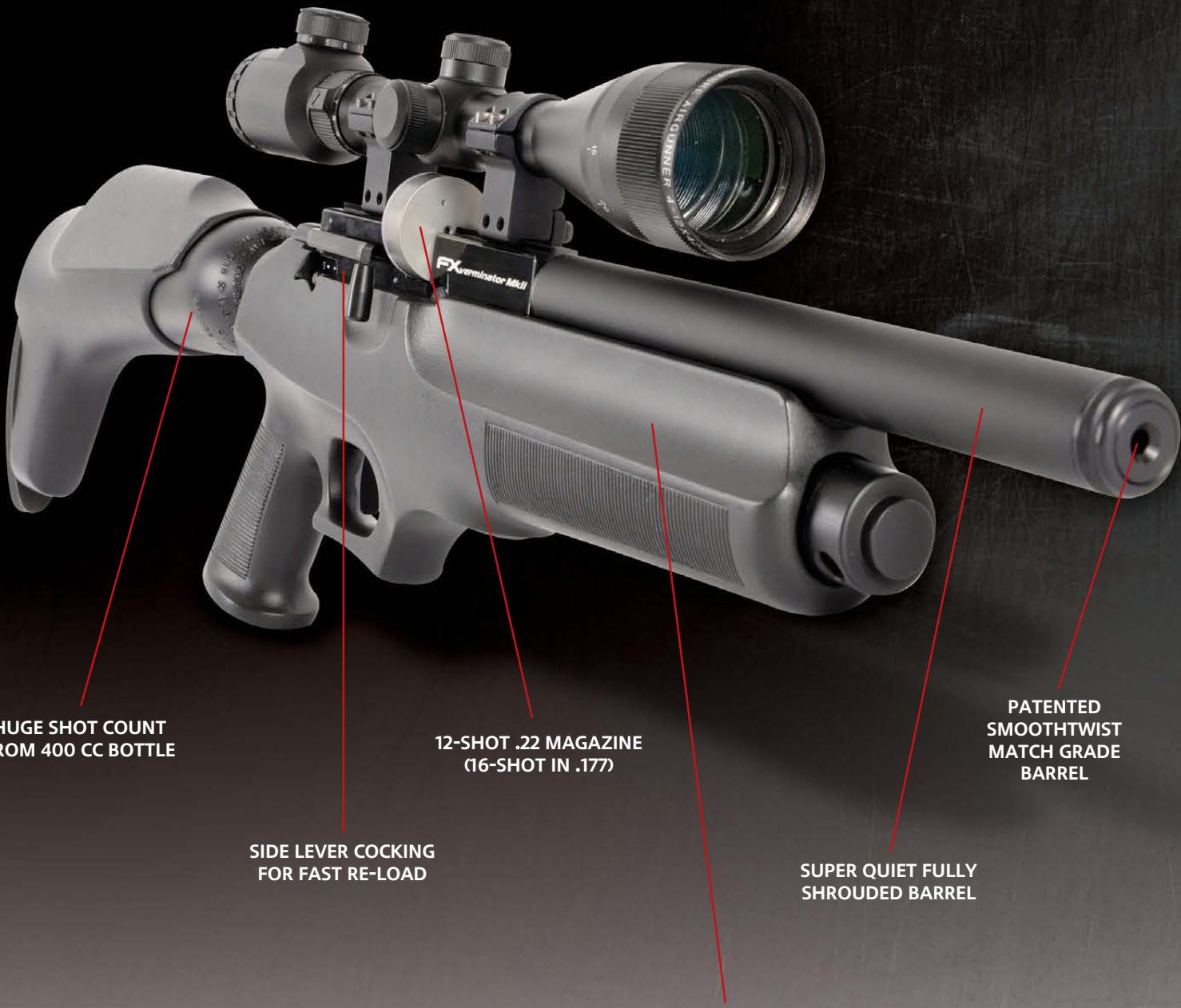
use thin gloves, no matter what. I decided to take a few more pictures because there was a break in the clouds. I was just about to pick up the tripod to pack it away when at least ten pigeons flew into the tree right in front of me. I could not believe it. I dropped right behind a small birch tree and rested in the fork.

Using the sleeve of my jumper, I slowly dabbed what water I could off the scope and looked into the tree. There was one pigeon that had finally sat on a nice, thick branch and was as still as a rock. I waited for the wind to stop gusting and placed the cross right at the base of its neck. The pigeon slumped forward as the pellet struck true and fell to the floor. 'Thank God for that,' I said to myself, 'There is always hope, no matter what Mother Nature throws at us.' I just gave up this time, too soon. ■

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# AN AIRGUNNER'S COUNTRY SMALLHOLDING

So far it's been a mild winter, but John Bezzant looks at which camo works in the colder months

To my surprise, I have not seen much in the way of snow in the far north so far this winter, which is something of a relief because last Christmas I was ploughing through snow four feet deep, which as you can imagine, becomes somewhat exhausting after a while.

That snow also brought about the death of a beautiful kestrel that used to hunt over our field. The simple reason being that the mice and voles stay beneath the snow and consequently can not be seen, and with a small-framed bird like the kestrel it

*Below: Some people use a special camo pattern in the snow.*

*Bottom pictures: If you cut this image in half you can see what I mean*

only takes a few days before its body grows weak, after which it cannot find the strength to fly and its fate is sealed. It was something of a sad find to discover its body with wings prostrate at the edge of our field, but happily, another kestrel has taken its place and maybe what remains of this rather tame winter will not bring about

its demise.

Though there has been little snow, there have been a number of cold days and some deep frosts, which have turned foliage and field grasses from their bright colours to a dull mixture of pale greens and straw-coloured browns. I have been experimenting to see which camouflage pattern best suits such an

**"As they say the proof of the pudding is in the eating, so I donned my Wildlands pattern suit and set myself up in the prone position in our field"** 



environment.

Jack Pyke has a pattern called 'Wildlands' designed for wildfowlers who operate in the reeds and rushes of estuaries. The pattern is constructed on a pale, sand-coloured background and comprises a variety of rushes including the unmistakable bullrush, all of which have a straw-like colour. This pattern could, therefore, be called fairly bright and I suspect stand out like a sore thumb in the green environment of a summer woodland. However, in the winter environment when the grasses and foliage, exhausted of their vividness, give way to a bland display of washed-out colours, I thought the light Wildlands pattern might merge extremely well.

### Proof of the Pudding

As they say, 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating', so I donned my Wildlands pattern suit and set myself up in the prone position in our field. I had photos taken from several different



**"I learned a bit about glove-making when I attended a falconry course, many years ago, and I now intend to put my learning to some practical use"**

angles, at ranges varying from 10 to 30 yards to see how well I merged with the dull winter colours.

As you will see from the selection of photographs accompanying this article the result is quite astonishing. In a grass field with no cover whatsoever, I think you will have to agree that I all but disappear. You can obviously discern my presence quite clearly in the close-ups, which is hardly surprising because the close-up is like putting me under a microscope, but fortunately rabbits do not carry binoculars around their necks to zoom in on me.

The photographs you should study more closely are those taken at the range between 20 and 30 yards and you will note that I am very difficult to see, and merge magnificently with the tussocks of washed-out grass that surround me. In fact, if it were not for the black of my rifle and the light-coloured gloves I am wearing, I doubt whether you would be able to pick me out at all. This point raises a very interesting question: Is it worth camouflaging yourself if you do not also camouflage your rifle? I have to say, on the evidence of these pictures, that my rifle is the proverbial sore thumb that clearly gives away my position. The black livery of the

*Above: John's headgear here is the Jack Pyke Tundra hat, which is very cosy as well as being camouflaged*

GunPower rifle is a complete and utter contrast to the very pale colouring of a field in its winter garb.

### Contrast

In fact, the contrast is not that far removed from a black object against a white background. These pictures have convinced me that to be complete, the shooters' camouflage must include the rifle, and I shall be looking into suitable options to make my rifle as invisible as me.

I could have the rifle painted, but then the camouflage pattern would be permanent and as I stated in my last article, the countryside is extremely changeable from season to season. A rifle with a permanent camouflage pattern would soon be in an unsuitable environment. Also, one day I could be hunting in woodland and the next on open grassland, two different environments requiring different camo patterns.

So what remains? There is scrim, Scrim is a loosely woven fabric and it is used by the military to make ghillie suits and rifle wraps, to which foliage from the environment in which you are working can be attached. I'm sure you will have seen those old war films where some soldier appears like magic

from the undergrowth with tufts of grass stick up from his helmet. Well, the helmet is covered in scrim and that is what the grass is attached to.

The advantage of scrim is that it is cheap and you can match the rifle exactly to the surrounding environment. The disadvantage is that it takes time to apply the required foliage, which has to be done before you can start to hunt. Scrim is also really only suitable for a pre-charged pneumatic rifle because the continued cocking of a break-barrel is going to dislodge the carefully arranged scrim.

### Get It Taped

Another option is the use one of the modern, self-adhesive camouflage tapes such as those made by Camo-It. These stick to your rifle yet can be removed later without causing any damage to the gun's finish. Jack Pyke offer a choice of patterns and the vinyl they use is resistant to the sun's bleaching effect so the patterns don't fade over time. I do not know how durable these camouflage tapes are, but I think I shall do some experiments to find out because the use of such tape is probably going to be the easiest and most effective way to make my rifle merge with its surroundings.

## Hand in Glove

So, that's my rifle taken care of, but what about the light-coloured gloves I am wearing? These definitely need to be changed for a pair of camouflage gloves and it just so happens that I am making a pair of shooting mittens from an old German army camouflage jacket. I learned a bit about glove-making when I attended a falconry course many years ago, and I now intend to put my learning to some practical use.

My experience of bought camouflage gloves thus far has been that they are flimsy and tend to fall to pieces after just a few good sessions of hunting up here in the not so frozen north, which is why I have determined to make my own mittens. Why mittens? you may ask. For the simple reason that mittens are warmer than gloves, which is why you never see an Eskimo in gloves. Mittens are also easier to make waterproof. I know you will be trying to figure out how I am going to activate the trigger whilst wearing a pair of mittens, but do not worry, the mitten for the trigger hand will have a finger so that the trigger finger can work independently. However, I have so far only made one mitten, which is why I was wearing gloves in



the photos, but next time I shall be proudly sporting my mittens, which will have cost me nothing apart from a few hours of work.

## Low Profile

From the photos of me in the prone position and a few of me in the kneeling position you can see that the lower your profile the more you merge with your surroundings. Surprisingly, with the photo taken at 30 yards, you will see that even in the kneeling position, wearing the wildlands suit and matching winter head gear, I merge very well with my surroundings.

**Above:** Note John's tactical positioning in reference to the dark tree line. Placing yourself in front of a dark background like this reduces your profile

**Below:** Even when viewed close up, the Wildlands pattern is still very effective. The photographer is just five yards away

Again, imagine that my rifle and hands were camouflaged to the same degree as my body; I would be very well concealed.

Jack Pyke did not design the Wildlands camouflage pattern for the dull surroundings of winter grassland, but for wetland environments, although I believe Jack Pyke has also inadvertently created the perfect pattern for the winter environment in which I hunt. The pattern seems far superior to the woodland patterns most shooters use for winter hunting.

## Snow Way

When the snow falls, quite a few hunters have a specific snow camouflage suit. I have just such a suit, which has a Scandinavian pattern, but I am convinced that the Wildlands suit, though not constructed on a white background, will also prove effective in snowy conditions. My experiments so far, on the little sprinklings of snow that have hit the higher ground, bears out my theory of the Wildlands pattern blending superbly with a snowy background.

Well, it's time to do some more work on my shooting mittens and hopefully they will be finished in time to show off in the next article. ■



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# ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS

Keith Warburton explains what he means by 'relative' and 'absolute'; but enough of the theory, how did he get on in his first springer competition?

When I evaluate my results in a Hunter Field Target (HFT) competition I tend to use two measures, 'relative' and 'absolute'. Relative is what I've achieved compared to other shooters, and might include me thinking, 'Oh, he's a really good shot and I scored just below/ahead of him.' In an Open



I've finished near the top, ahead of other shooters who I consider to be generally better than me, so relatively speaking I've done well.

'Absolute' is a straightforward and linear measurement. It is simply the score that I achieved out of a possible 60 points. Until now, my personal best score has been 54 points.

**"The shooters' excuse book is a very thick one, but as time has gone on, the scale of my errors has reduced"**

competition, which in effect means using pre-charged pneumatic (PCP) rifles in .177 calibre I would normally expect to end up in the lower half of the field. I don't consider myself to be a particularly good shooter, but there have been a few times when

**Above:** It is very satisfying to knock over a target that many others have missed. This 45mm one was at 45 yards

**Right:** Paul Burt wasn't shooting springer this time round, probably another reason Keith won

## Golf?

Shooting is a bit like golf; we keep coming back because we know we can improve, if only we could do the good things we do more consistently. We see that a target we're about to shoot has been 'plated' by a lot of other



shooters and then we manage to knock it down, in effect saying, "I shot this better than a lot of others today." It helps us to put up with those times we just 'plate' a target that plenty others people have knocked over.

I always take something positive out of a shoot. I might congratulate myself for knocking down a tricky target, or if I miss it and see where the pellet lands I may tell myself that at least I got the wind right, or with my pellet landing at 3 or 9 o'clock, that I got the range perfect even if the wind caught me out. So even if I don't have a particularly good score overall, I have something positive to focus on.

## Excuses

Earlier in my HFT shooting career my



mistakes were many. I'd completely mis-range a shot, or I'd get the wind totally wrong, or both, or I'd 'pull' the shot by jerking at the trigger, or I'd fail to follow through the shot. The shooters' excuse book is a very thick one, but as time has gone on, the scale of my errors has reduced, meaning that my complete misses, or doughnuts, are now few and far between. Touch wood.

I've been shooting .22 calibre for the last 12 months to force myself to concentrate on rangefinding. I've enjoyed a modest success, perhaps peaking when I won the .22 section of the Daystate Midland Hunters series, although I have to admit that the other contender didn't actually show up for the final round, which rather tilted the result in my favour. My henchmen set him free once the competition was over. However, I was particularly pleased with one of my club shoots at Cambridge HFT, when I drew with Matt Rawlings, one of the



*Below: A low-cost, winning combination. A 20-year-old TX and a Nikko Stirling Gold Crown scope*

country's top .22 shooters, and then won the subsequent shoot-off.

There was also a psychological benefit in shooting .22. In any HFT competition there are usually only a few shooters in this category; if I come three-quarters of the way down a field of 100 shooters in the open class, then I'll be 75th. If I come three quarters of the way down a field of four in .22 I can claim third place!

### Minority Report

So having achieved a modest degree of success in one of the branches of HFT, I thought I'd try my hand at the other 'minority' part of the pastime – springer shooting. This covers all spring-action rifles including break-barrel, under-lever, side-lever and gas-rams and in most competitions there is no separate class for the different calibres.

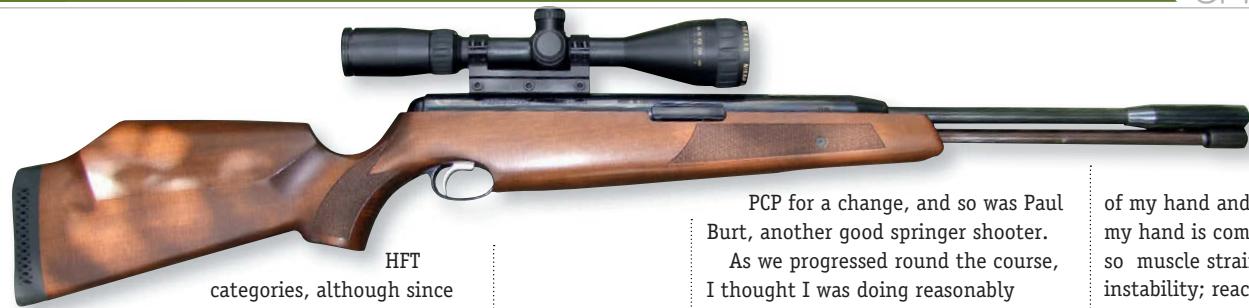
With this in mind, I'd bought one of the classic under-lever airguns,

an Air Arms TX200 Mk2 in .177 flavour. Although 20 years old it was in good condition. I'd only done a little practising with it in the garden, setting it up with an affordable Nikko Stirling Gold Crown Airking scope. The whole set-up cost me not much more than £200.

So that's the background to my first springer competition. The venue was one of the south's best facilities for airgunners, Lea Valley Airgun Club, on the outskirts of Hertford. Less than 20 miles from the M25, the club attracts shooters from a wide area, and they come to participate in various disciplines including pistol HFT, Iron Plate Action Shooting (IPAS), Field Target, bench rest rifle and, of course, HFT. There is also a thriving vintage airgun section at the club.

The club has an open HFT competition on one Saturday each month. There is usually a field of about 50 shooters, split over the different





HFT

categories, although since Lea Valley isn't affiliated to the UK Association for HFT the categories (and sometimes the course layout) aren't necessarily exactly as prescribed by the organising body.

My partner Ng came along with me for her third try at HFT; she shot her Brocock in the open class. We started on the third peg, our neighbours ahead being Nigel Fleet and his son Ollie, along with Justin Rhone. Following us were top shots Richard Woods and Vince Holland – they were all shooting in the open class which meant I didn't have any springer shooters nearby to measure my results against. Harry Kalaydjian, the reigning World Champion HFT springer shooter, was there, but happily he was shooting a

**Above: My TX is old but works perfectly**



**Above: Either Keith is collecting his winnings, or he's bribing Lea Valley's Alison Mansfield**

**Below: Being on a hillside adds to the challenge**

PCP for a change, and so was Paul Burt, another good springer shooter.

As we progressed round the course, I thought I was doing reasonably well but I really surprised myself on the longest shot, number 29. It was down a steep slope which is very deceiving for ranging. My initial visual appraisal had it at 45 yards, which was confirmed by the amount of blur when I looked through the scope. My aim point for 45 yards was one full mil-dot of hold over.

### Routine

Once I'd initially sighted the target through the scope and confirmed that there seemed to be little or no wind to allow for I went through the routine that had been standing me in good stead up to now: grasp the peg with my leading hand to make a support for the fore-end of the stock; ensure

the rifle is sitting vertically on the top of my hand and not canted; make sure my hand is comfortable and relaxed so muscle strain doesn't cause any instability; reacquire the target in the scope; adjust the fit of the recoil pad in my shoulder for maximum support and stability. Make sure I'm lying at a comfortable angle; ensure my cheek isn't pressed too heavily against the stock (I feel it might push the rifle to the side during the recoil period when the rifle is 'active' as the spring decompresses and the pellet flies down the barrel) and make sure my trigger hand is gently wrapped round the grip, as lightly as possible – just enough to ensure stability. All this is done while my trigger finger rests on the side of the trigger guard. Then: steady my breathing and micro-adjust the alignment of the scope's reticle against the hit zone; make sure that the first mil-dot comes to rest over





the hit zone at a repeatable moment in my breathing cycle; push the safety catch into the fire position with my thumb; place the pad of my forefinger ever so gently on the trigger; exhale about 75% of my breath and hold it; let the mil-dot steady against the hit zone; take up the first pressure on the trigger. A final check: do I need to make any further allowance for wind, has there been any change? No? Then squeeze my thumb and forefinger gently towards each other (not 'pull the trigger'). The sears slide smoothly and the spring is released, propelling the pellet down the barrel. Stay on aim as the pellet vaporises against the hit zone and the target falls and mentally congratulate myself on a really good shot as I hear

Richard, Vince and Ng all congratulating me as well. Easy, isn't it? Shame it doesn't work as smoothly as this every time.

### Moving On

We then moved on to the next target. It was only ten yards away this time, but about 20 feet up a tree, in other words a very steep angle. It wasn't a 'positional', which means that you can take it from any of the stances: prone, kneeling or standing. Prone is normally

**Above:** Lea Valley's wooded hillside course offers plenty of challenges for HFT shooters

**Bottom left:** With a score of 49, Keith won the springer class

**Bottom right:** Sometimes it is easier to take elevated shots from a semi-sideways position, with the rifle in the crook of your arm

**Below:** Rather than pull the trigger, just squeeze thumb and forefinger together



the preferred position, as it offers the greatest stability, and unsupported standing is the most difficult. Ng just couldn't get a line on the target from prone, but Justin reminded us that the shot could be taken standing. That was enough for her and she got up and took a bead on the 20mm kill. I have to confess that I whooped and punched the air when she knocked it over with a perfectly placed shot, and Richard, Vince and Justin all cheered her too.

So then, it was no pressure on me for this shot! I took it prone, but because of the acute angle I lay almost on my side with the butt of the rifle in the crook of my arm and my hand on top of the post - this enabled me to get the right elevation and I could

see the kill in my scope. It was so close that I could easily get two aim points inside the kill, potentially an easy shot. Ah, beware of over-confidence! As the pellet landed, the first thing I heard was the 'whee' as it ricocheted off the edge of the kill. Happily it must have been a splitter and enough of the pellet landed on the kill to make the target fall - very slowly. As I reflected on what went wrong I realised I'd neglected to aim low to allow for the elevation, a pretty basic error caused by lack of concentration (what some uncharitable people might call poor marksmanship).

### The Reckoning

At the end of the competition we put our score cards in for the reckoning. With regard to my relative performance I was delighted with my placing because I beat some very experienced shooters including Rex Bennett - a really good springer shooter - who scored 46 points to my class-winning 49. Yes, on my first outing with a springer I'd won the category in a field of seven. Not only that, but my springer score would have placed me in the top half of the PCP field. So was I pleased? Absolutely! And will I be shooting springer again? Oh, I should think so. I mean, it can't just have been luck, can it? ■

**"I have to confess that I whooped and punched the air when she knocked it over with a perfectly placed shot"**



LVAGC		HFT	Date:
Name:	16-11-14		
1	2	1	(3)
6	1	7	2
11	2	12	2
16	2	17	2
21	1	22	2
26	2	27	2
			28 2
			29 2
			30 1
2 Points for a knock over, 1 point for a face-plate and 0 for a miss		Total	49

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<sup>1</sup> – Nigel Allen, Airgun Shooter December 2014



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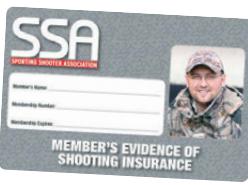
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# HARRY'S GAME

What does it take to become a spring gun champion? Keith Warburton finds out from Harry Kaladjian

I recently started shooting a 20-year-old Air Arms TX200 under-lever springer, discovered that I could shoot it far better than I thought, and won the first club hunter field target (HFT) competition I took part in.

My second springer competition took place at Rochford Airgun Club and I was really pleased to find that I scored higher than Harry Kaladjian. Why so? Well, not only is Harry a regular shooter at Rochford and this was only the second time I'd shot there, but he is also the top

**Main:** Harry uses the classic prone position, the tailored stock aligns his head perfectly

**Below:** Harry Kaladjian, top world HFT springer shooter

world HFT springer shooter, or to give him his full title: 'Winner of the Recoiling Class of the 2014 HFT World Championships' which he won shooting against 23 of the best springer shooters from the UK and Europe.

I asked Harry about his route to the top, and any hints and tips he might like to share. Here's

his story:

## Here's Harry

"I started shooting in late 2008 but really got the bug in early 2009. I used to have a pistol that lived in the drawer and my grown-up son asked why I didn't trade it in against a rifle, so I did and then joined Lea Valley Airgun Club to get some practice.

"I used to do



the monthly Field Target shoot at Lea Valley but I never really took to it. My first year at Lea Valley was really about getting used to shooting and bonding with my rifle and scope. Then someone suggested I try the hunter field target competition. I remember to this day my absolutely appalling score of 24, but it gave me the incentive to keep coming back and trying to improve.

"My eldest son and my nephew used to come with me to Lea Valley every week until they discovered girls. Now I take my five-year-old son Harry Junior to the family-fun competitions at Rochford Airgun Club. I don't shoot at those events, I just concentrate on teaching him how to shoot.

"I love the discipline of HFT and the huge number of competitors that you are up against. There are some very good shooters on the HFT circuit and when you see yourself improve and actually compete with the big boys, then it's very pleasurable. I love the challenges that HFT throws up.

### Fully Tuned

"My spring rifle is a fully-tuned Weihrauch HW97K, tuned by the man himself, Steve Pope, with a full V-Mach V-Glide and V-Trigger. The stock is a one-off made by Toby Lee from Lea Valley and it has an EV2 adjustable butt pad. I think having a rifle that fits you really well is important and the V-Mach kit has made a good rifle into a great one – a worldbeater, I suppose. The scope I use and love on my springer is the Falcon Menace fixed 10x42 EMD (Extended Mil Dot) reticle which has mil dots with half lines in between. I love the clarity of the Falcon on the closer range targets and the half mil lines really help you keep on target, rather than floating between the dots.

"My competition PCP is a Daystate MK3 FTR and it has a blue/grey laminate stock from Mark Sanderson. My hunting rifle is also a Daystate MK3 FTR, but this time in the standard stock.

"Although I love my PCPs the spring gun is my baby. The PCPs are deadly accurate; if you miss you can only blame yourself, but the springer

is incredibly accurate too. Some people are surprised to learn that it is more consistent over the chrono than the regulated MK3s, but it is way more challenging to shoot and gives me far more pleasure. It really makes me concentrate on technique and analyse the misses, and to rectify mistakes.

"All my guns like Air Arms Diabolo Field 8.4 grain in 4.52 head size and I have always rated these pellets because they are softer than most. I believe that when the air hits the pellet, the skirt flares out and grips the rifling, making them fly better.

"The first year I went to 'The Worlds' was in 2013. My good friend, Ron Whitney, convinced me to go. I just wanted to see how I compared to the rest of the world. I would have been delighted with a top 10 placing and was a bit disappointed by my eleventh place. No wonder I wanted to go again the following year."

### The Worlds

The World HFT Championships have two full 30-target courses and the event is on the Sunday and Monday of the Easter bank holiday. There are

**"I remember to this day my absolutely appalling score of 24, but it gave me the incentive to keep coming back and trying to improve"**



**“The PCPs are deadly accurate; if you miss you can only blame yourself, but the springer is incredibly accurate too”**



morning and afternoon sessions on both days. Competitors will normally shoot a morning session on one day on one course, and an afternoon session on the other course on the other day. With three competitors in each group this means that 180 people can shoot each course each day, giving a total pool of 360 top-class air rifle shooters at the event.

Harry takes up his story: “The following year, 2014, I went again. I was so glad I didn’t have the morning shoot because the wind was howling, but it had died right down by the afternoon, so that was a great advantage. I took the bull by the horns and went about doing the job to the best of my ability, and came in with a score of 53 out of 60. Nigel Jones was top springer shooter for day one, his score of 55 put me into second place.

“On the second day there was some wind but I was very focused on the job in hand and went about it even better than the first day; as I progressed round the course my concentration was getting better and better. Nigel shot nowhere near as well as he’d done on the first day and had a score of 48,

**Top: Supported standers are one of the most difficult shots, shooters need a light but firm grip**

**Above: He doesn’t like to brag, but: his shirt says it all**

**Below: Harry gently supports the rifle with an open palm for kneeling shots**

but I completely amazed myself with a 56, which gave me a total of 109. Kyle Hampton scored 105 and Nigel came in with 103. Is it a coincidence that we were all shooting Weihrauchs?

“I have to say that Kyle is a very good shooter and I’ve always respected him. I think I managed to beat him because he had an issue with his rifle on the first day and he had to use a back up rifle on the second day, but my focus on the job was huge and I knew the championship was within my grasp so I did all I could and it paid off.

### Memorable

“Those two days were, and always will be, memorable for me not least because of the two guys I shot with. Joost Broere from The Netherlands and Clive Evans (UK) were a pleasure

to be with and really made the world championships for me, and although we were all trying our best we had a good laugh along the way.”

I asked Harry if he had any tips for shooters: “I had to learn the hard way when I started. Although there were a lot of helpful people, the top boys wouldn’t share anything with you. So I just kept on practising, to try to discover what I was doing wrong and to rectify that fault. Having the best equipment is only half the battle, but to shoot a spring gun takes a lot of practice and time to bond with your gun and scope. I must add it’s a shame that the skill of shooting air rifles, and springers in particular, isn’t recognised more widely. We have a lot to take into consideration before pulling the trigger, probably more than a lot of other shooting disciplines.”

### Disadvantaged

I said earlier that I’d beaten Harry in the second springer competition I’d shot. I have to confess he had a distinct disadvantage on the day, because he was coaching another shooter. It is very pleasing to see that Harry Kaladjian, champion springer shooter, is more than happy to mentor new airgunners whenever he can. Nice one, Harry! ■





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# THE WEAKEST LINK

Just how much difference do proper mounts make? asks Jim Royce

A reader recently wrote to ask me for help. His break-barrel, spring-piston rifle simply wouldn't hold zero. He'd tried tightening the bolts again and again until he finally stripped the socket heads, but still no luck. I asked what type of mounts he was using and he told me that they were unbranded ones that came free with an old scope he'd bought years before. There was

double-bolt, one-piece job and fitted it as I instructed. He rang the next afternoon, over the moon with the neat groups his rifle was producing. All his worries were over. He'd feared that either his expensive rifle or scope was faulty and it was going to cost him a lot of money to get fixed, when in fact the answer was really cheap.

£37.00 for a piece of engineering of this standard is an absolute bargain,

*Above: Mounts come in all shapes and sizes to suit your needs*

**"He rang the next afternoon, over the moon with the neat little groups his rifle was producing"**

the answer. Recoiling guns need secure mounts and whenever possible a one-piece model is best.

As ever, I recommended Sportsmatch and he went straight out and bought a super-strong, OP39C,

in my eyes. SportsMatch uses the highest grade aluminium which is then machined to very tight tolerances. Correct alignment of scope and barrel is vital, so accurate machining is everything. They also have tight

quality control, ensuring that every part of every mount meets the tolerances they demand.

The edges of all the parts are carefully radiused to ensure that where they contact the scope, no damage can occur. If the inside edges of the rings are left sharp or in any way misaligned, they can crease the scope's body tube and ruin it instantly. Then we come to the bolts and the threads they screw into. Again, precision is key with the holes precisely bored and then tapped slowly and carefully, whilst the bolts are top-grade models that are correctly lubricated before assembly. These are the best mounts you can buy, without question.

So with one purchase and 30 minutes to fit it correctly, our reader's problem was solved, his accuracy was improved and his game bag filling nicely. Remember a chain is only as strong as its weakest link ... ■

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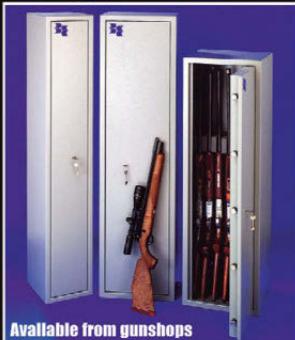
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# DAYSTATE MIDLAND HUNTER SERIES

# ROUND 1 LINCOLN HUNTER FT CLUB



New writer, Theresa Reed, takes us through round one of this hotly contested series

Pictures by Andy Wilson

October marked the start of the Daystate Midland Hunter Series (DMHS). Their dedicated website says it was originally 'set up in March 2009, in response to HFT shooters in the Midlands wanting a local series to take part in over the winter'. With the support of Daystate, and now also Solware, each year the series has gone from strength to strength. It consists of six competitions, this season stretching from Lincolnshire to Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Leicestershire. The first round took place just outside

Lincoln.

### Cold Comfort

Weather wise, compared to last season's opening round of the DMHS in Worcester, where we all experienced a drenching, this year's Round 1 couldn't have been more different. Whilst many of us started out the day by scratching frost off our car windows at some ungodly hour and donning jackets that had been hiding in the cupboard all summer, by the time the starting whistle blew, many of us had stripped back down to



*Above: This is what people were competing for*

*Main: Air Gunner contributor, Keith Warburton, is doing pretty well on the HFT scene at the moment. See page 35 for more details*

T-shirts and were soaking up the warm autumn sunshine.

This year's first round had been destined for Worcester, but the hosting club was changed at the last minute for the Lincoln Hunter FT club, and it made a nice change to visit a new venue. The Lincoln shooting ground is located on the edge of Waddington

## RESULTS:

Open – Dave Hunter 58  
 Recoiling – Steve Whiting 51  
 22 – Simon Harrison 46  
 Vets – Steve Watson 57  
 Ladies – Theresa Reed 50  
 Juniors – Elliott Reed 48

Village on the outskirts of the City of Lincoln. It has two areas for zeroing – a traditional range situated in a field, and a fully accessible concreted area equipped for air rifle and air pistol, plus a good acreage of land for HFT.

### Challenging Course

The course itself, set up by Nick Yates, Mark Carter and the Lincoln crew, was an interesting mix with targets 1 – 14 mainly comprising slightly elevated shots, placed along a hedge line on the brow of the hill (well, as hilly as Lincolnshire gets!), and targets 15 to 30 fanning out in an arc across a long, grassy meadow. As well as making good use of the natural surroundings, with targets up trees and nestled in the ridge and furrow, there were also several nice, challenging obstacles to contend with – such as a long pipe and a coiled spring to shoot through, and a reduced kill perfectly placed behind a small, wooden gate, each of which forced you to shoot either flat down on the deck or halfway up the post.

The unsupported kneeler caused a few problems for some because it was positioned on a slope that by the time we reached it had become a mini

*Right: This top shot's airgun of choice is a Daystate*

clay mud slide! For yours truly, I can honestly say that it's been a long time since I've had to get my hips in such a wide, awkward position – just to maintain balance!

On the whole, the winds were non-existent to light, but every so often a breeze would wind its way through the grass and bushes just enough to move your pellet off target and join the rest of the grey blur on the faceplate. That didn't stop some good scores being handed in, and people like fellow Kirby team mate, Mark Thompson scoring a PB!

### Shoot Off

To decide the final overall places there was an extensive shoot-off in all the categories with the exception of the ladies class. For the Open class, James McLachlan went up against Paul Monniez for second place, both having scored 57. While Rick Arden, Mark Camoccio, Elliott Compton, Kev Gaunt, Gavin Howling, Rob Molley and Nigel

*Below: Using a post to steady his shot, James McLachlan takes aim*

*Bottom left: The all-important assessment of a shot*

*Bottom right: An Air Arms at a Daystate shoot?*



Smith who all shot a 55 were left to fight it out for third.

### Results

In the Recoiling, Ian Treadwell, Ian Sheppard and Luke Wells battled for third place, whilst Nev Baguley and Nick Yates fought for second position in the Vets.

Air Gunner's, Keith Warburton also looked a little shocked to find himself back on the firing line with Ian Hunter, to decide who would take second in the .22.

**"I can honestly say that it's been a long time since I've had to get my hips in such a wide awkward position – just to maintain balance!"**



Even the juniors had their first-ever shoot-off with, Elliott 'cool as cucumber' Reed just beating Keiran Spicer to take first place.

All in all, the shoot-off made a perfect end to a most enjoyable day and I couldn't think of anywhere else I'd rather be than sitting in the Lincolnshire countryside on a warm Sunday afternoon watching people pitch their skill, and their nerves, against each other.

A big 'well done' must be directed to the Lincoln guys for their hard work in course-setting and putting on a good day at such short notice. They certainly rose to the challenge, and in the process introduced us to a great shooting ground – a place I'm sure many of us will look forward to revisiting and shooting at again. ■



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# FIXED AT A STROKE

Neil Price fixes a Walther LGR Single-Stroke Pneumatic Target Air Rifle

**PART 1**

I shoot bell target competitions in three local leagues, and one of my colleagues has used this Walther LGR single-stroke pneumatic for many, many years. When shooting it in a competition the other day, it suddenly would not hold air on the compression stroke, so it ended up coming home with me.

**1** The first thing to do is to remove the dioptre rear sight as we don't want to damage this expensive bit of kit. Put it out of the way, somewhere safe.

**2** Remove the slot-head screw on the underside at the front of the stock and the pillar nut and screw from the trigger guard. The action can now be lifted clear of the stock. Again put the stock somewhere safe.

**3** Remove the four screws, there are two on each side, from the trigger assembly, and pull it down out of the aluminium housing.

**4** From inside the aluminium trigger housing, remove the three slot-head screws and lock washers.

**5** Note that the forward screw is shorter than the other two and has to be replaced in the same position.

**6** There is no need to take the cocking arm out of the end block, but if you do for any reason then take careful note of where the serrations on the pivot bolt are positioned relative to the serrations in the action.

**7** The reason for this is that the pivot bolt is actually a cam bolt that sets the lock-up point for the cocking arm when in the closed position.

**8** If you do want to separate the cocking arm from the back block then carefully prise

the spring clip from the bottom of the pivot bolt. Careful now, because it can fly for several feet when released from its groove and be lost forever. Break the cocking arm from its closed position to relieve the pressure on the pivot bolt and then withdraw it from the top of the action.

**9** Remove the slot-head screw from the back block retaining plate and remove the plate.

**10** Remove the two screws from the top of the action that go into the back block. The slots on these screws are not straight, but are radiused, so to get full engagement in the slot, I ground a corresponding radius on the end of an old screwdriver.

**11** The cocking arm, lever and piston assembly can now be withdrawn from the rear of the action.

**12** Remove the 'C' clip from one side of the firing valve rocker arm pivot pin. Again be careful, as these little monkeys can fly off and be lost forever as well.

**13** Withdraw the pivot pin and remove the rocker arm.

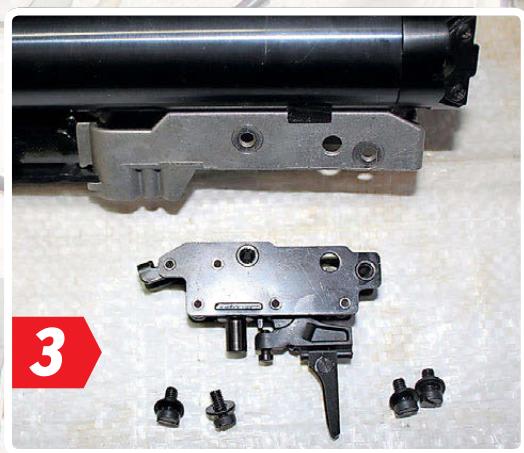
**14** With the rocker arm out of the way we have access to the pillar nut and screw that holds the rocker bracket on the action.



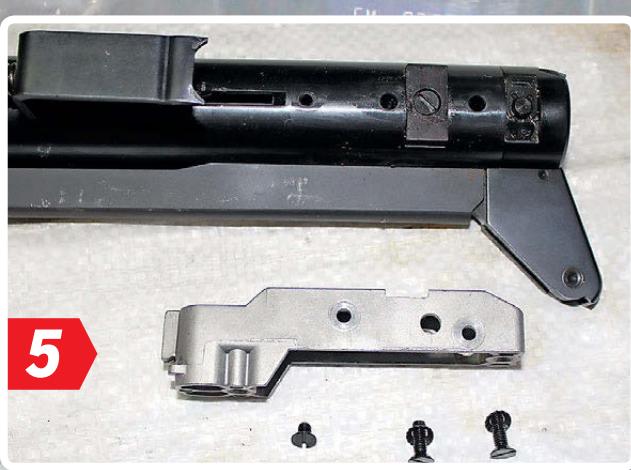
# AIR GUNNERS WORKSHOP



2



3



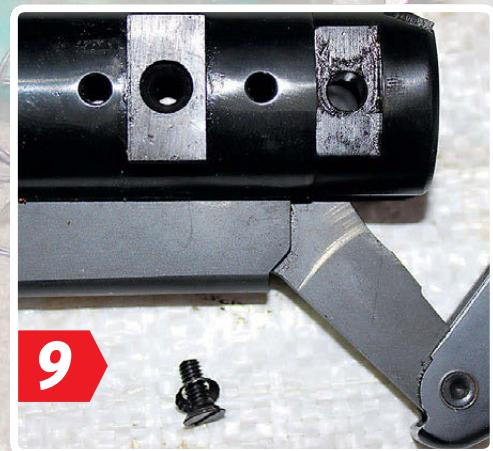
5



6



8



9

**15** Remove the pillar nut and screw and remove the rocker bracket and firing valve transfer linkage and spring.

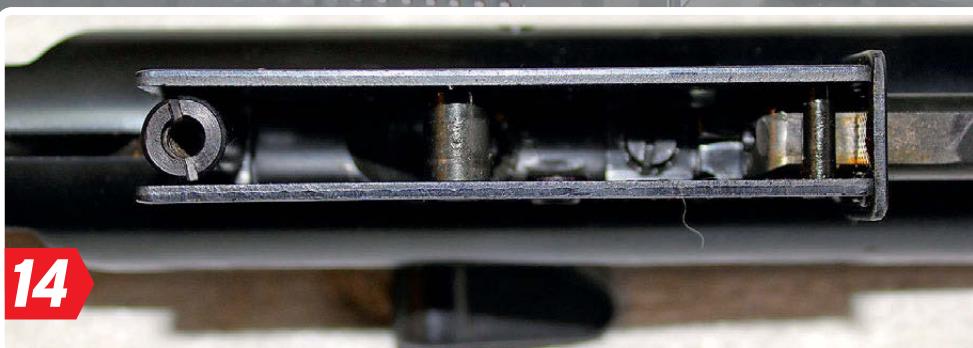
**16** You can see why I always use a shallow tray to keep safe all of the bits and pieces that I have removed.

**17** Now we can get to the firing valve. This is held in with a tube locknut with slots. Depending on how tight this is, it may be removed by putting the jaws of snipe-nosed pliers in the slots, or with a pin-punch and hammer, which will damage the slots in the nut. Or if you know someone with a lathe, a tube spanner to fit can be made.

**18** I made a tube spanner. It is 14mm outside diameter with an 8mm diameter hole in the centre. The lugs are 3mm wide by 2mm deep. This did the job admirably.

**19** Loosen the slot-head grub-screw that locates in the body of the firing valve.

**20** The firing valve assembly can now be withdrawn from its bore in the action.



**FIXED AT A  
STROKE**

Next month..we bring you: **PART 2**



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"Effort went into ensuring these boots are light but not at the cost of stability"



# JACK'S BACK

Charlie McFee brings us some serious field kit from Jack Pyke

Jack Pyke is a company that works hard to provide us with kit that we both need and can afford, and they're always keen to fill any gaps in their range that customers have asked for. This month we have three new products that really appeal to me as ones I'll take to the field to work just as intended.

*Above: Viper's new flagship boot is pretty special*

## Viper Elite 5 Boots

The Elite 5 is Jack Pyke's new flagship boot, incorporating a mass of technical features designed to make them light, waterproof and comfortable. The main upper boot is constructed from 1000D Corudra, which is tough, incredibly abrasion-resistant and able to accept the Multicam camouflage pattern.

Supporting this are panels of durable suede, whilst inside, a Hydroguard membrane ensures complete waterproofing.

The sole unit has an EVA mid-section just like you'd find in a running shoe, offering lots of shock absorption whilst remaining very light. Below this is Vibram's Multi-Sport rubber sole. This has a very open pattern and aggressive lugs that find grip on many surfaces,

whether wet or dry and is more like a trainer sole than a heavy-duty boot one. Vibram makes some of the best soles you can buy, being grippy and durable.

It's plain that a lot of effort went into ensuring that these boots are light, but not at the cost of stability. Moving over difficult terrain while carrying your rifle and a rucksack full of rabbits can easily cause a sprained ankle and the support these boots offer will be well appreciated.

Inside, they're well padded and feature a removable foot bed that conforms to the shape of your foot in use; all very comfortable indeed. Some people have questioned the use of desert camouflage in our green and pleasant land, but I think the greens and tan combination worked well, especially with a bit of mud thrown in. I feel these colours work better than dark brown, or worse still, black. A camouflage expert once asked me if I could think of anything black in the countryside and apart from crows and their kind, I couldn't. He was opposed to black footwear completely and I agree.

The Elite 5 well deserves its place as Viper's top boot and is one I'm sure will prove to be a big seller for them soon.

£95.00

### Viper Special Ops Gloves

Finding gloves that work well for shooting is difficult so I was keen to try these Special Ops ones from Viper. They're made from quick-drying, synthetic materials and offer a close fit, which is vital for a shooting glove because proper feel is everything when it comes to gun handling. If you can't feel the trigger blade you can't release a shot with precision. Across the back of the hand is a Velcro adjuster and around the wrist, a second, much larger one. The back one is described as a wrist support, but I left it reasonably loose to improve freedom of movement. I chose the drab green to help with my camouflage, which I felt worked well. Covering our hands is vital for hunting, because they're always moving and are sure to give us away.

The medium was slightly snug for me, suggesting that sizing is on the small side which is good. Gloves always loosen with use, so starting with a slightly tight fit means that when they're broken in they'll be just right. They were also surprisingly warm, not what I was expecting, but on some pretty chilly winter days my hands didn't feel cold at all. I like these very much and they're a very welcome addition to my hunting kit.

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*Above: The Featherlite trouser packs down small enough to carry along*

### Technical Featherlite Trouser

The Technical Featherlite jacket has become something of a favourite around the office, for its performance and ability to be packed down small enough to be carried along on days when you're unsure of what the weather might bring. The light fabric used is supple and quiet, yet able to keep the wind and rain off and maintain warmth that harsh weather would strip away. To match this, the company has introduced the trouser which can be worn over another trouser in cold weather, or alone on milder days. These are comfortable, with a reasonably loose fit so they're not restrictive, even when worn over something else. The waist is elasticated with a drawstring to keep them snug, whilst the legs have long zips and Velcro closures to make getting them on and off easier. Zipped hip pockets complete the package.

I'm sure these will find a place in my winter rucksack beside the jacket, so that I'll be ready for whatever the winter brings.

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# SWELL IDEA

Spring airguns are not as efficient as they could be, according to the inventor of a new design of transfer port. Jim Royce investigates

**A**s an airgun-mad teenager growing up in the late 1970s, Phil Harmonic's life changed the day he bought a copy of *The Airgun from Trigger to Muzzle*, which was the first published scientific exploration of the spring airgun. By his own admission, not the best of scholars, Phil's sudden enthusiasm during physics and maths lessons staggered

tube transport (PTT) systems, and that allowed Phil block release access to college, then on to university. Later, Phil was employed on a range of projects, from pneumatic actuators to an airgun that shot tea into teabags at approaching 4,000fps, which Phil believes to be a record for any air-powered projectile.

Throughout his professional life,

**"Throughout his professional life, Phil's passion was the spring airgun; specifically, trying to improve it."**

his teachers, and for the first time in his life, he knew the career path he wanted to follow; he wanted to be an engineer, in any field that employed pneumatic systems.

Phil began an apprenticeship with a company that manufactured pneumatic

Phil's passion was the spring airgun; specifically, trying to improve it. The least understood area was the transfer port, and Phil's breakthrough came during a study of fluid dynamics, particularly blood flow, when he read about aneurysms. An aneurysm is a



*Left: A rare picture of Phil Harmonic, inventor, genius and airgunner*

section of artery wall that weakens and swells as blood is pumped through it, then contracts to provide a second pulse of flow downstream, and Phil reckoned he could harness that double pulse to increase the flow of air that drives airgun pellets.

## How it works

In place of a regular transfer port, the manufacturer or tuner will drill an oversize hole, into which a length of hard tubing is inserted. The material (which Phil is keeping a



closely guarded secret) only becomes elastic at a very high temperature, so it acts as a normal transfer port until the pellet starts to move, when the high temperature increases the port material's elasticity, allowing it to swell, so allowing greater air flow into the transfer port before the flow chokes, after which it delivers the crucial second air pulse to the pellet.

Does it work? Phil certainly thinks so, having gained energy increases from 5% to 15% in early testing. It's not all about power, though, and Phil is convinced that his transfer port greatly reduces piston bounce, reducing forward recoil to the point at which the pellet can be watched in flight through the scope.

With development complete, Phil has appointed an agent to handle licensing of his idea, and tenders will be accepted from the morning of April 1st. ■

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# MAKE MINE A MAGNUM

## PART 1

Gary Chillingworth prepares to shoot a 44 Magnum in the USA by training with air pistols in the UK

**A**s a reader of Air Gunner magazine there's a good chance that you are a big fan of shooting and, if you are like me, you will take any opportunity to shoot any type of gun that is available to you. So with this in mind, Matt, our illustrious editor, has given me permission to write a two-piece article about air pistols and handguns.

In part two of this article, I will be travelling to the USA and shooting the legendary 44 Magnum, the 9mm Glock, the Colt 1911 and the HK MP5 fully automatic. Part 1 of this series, however, is about how we can prepare for the trip. Also, can I learn a set of skills with an air pistols that will also work with one of the most powerful handguns in the world?

### Make the Call

My first port of call was Air Gunner's Phill Price. Phil is a bit of a guru when it comes to pistols and after a long chat, he thought it would be a good idea to get some 'trigger time' in the UK. He told me that trigger control and grip was extremely important with handguns and he explained that the act of pulling a trigger, or gripping a pistol incorrectly, could massively change where a round would land.

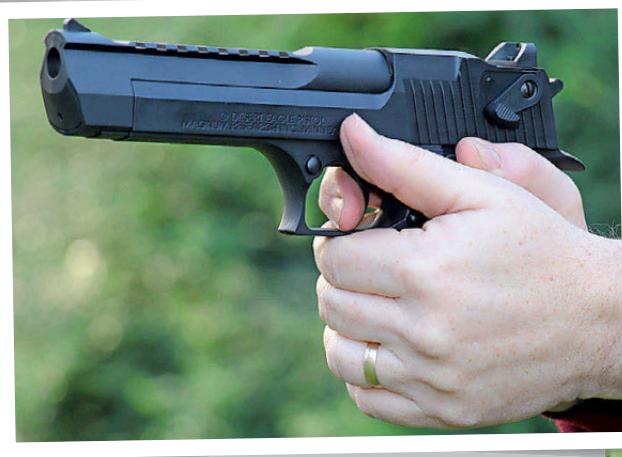
**Right:** This is the Weaver stance. When shooting air pistols it is best to wear safety glasses in case of ricochets

We talked about different guns that I could train with and he recommended that I use an air pistol that has a 'blow-back' action as it would better mimic a full-power firearm. This is because the blow-back function makes the pistol move about in your hands similar to a 9mm.

Luckily, Phill had a Desert Eagle

from a previous test and he agreed to send it to me. The first thing that I had to do, though, was learn about handgun safety. I am fully aware that an air pistol is not as dangerous as a full-power firearm, but at 6 ft.lbs., an air pistol is still capable of killing and it should never be treated lightly. Also, I felt the correct thing to do was treat the Desert Eagle as if it were a powder burner from day one and get into the

**Below:** The two-thumb grip is the correct way to hold a modern air pistol



habit of treating it the way a U.S. gun club would want me to treat it.

So, for the first few days, I spent time 'online' and used YouTube to find shooting videos that teach you how to use a handgun safely and what is expected from a shooter. The first things that I researched were the five main safety drills that are taught to all new shooters. These are:

1. Always keep the pistol point downrange.
2. Treat all weapons as if they are loaded, until you have proved them safe.
3. Never point a weapon at something you don't want to shoot, and think about what is behind the target.
4. Never rely on the safety catch.
5. Keep your finger off the trigger until it's time to shoot.

These should be familiar to us all, as they are the same safety rules for with an air rifle. With these core ideas ringing in my ears, it was time to start shooting. Shooting a handgun or air pistol has three main facets; the first is stance, the second is grip, and the third is trigger pull.

### Stance

As an air rifle shooter, I am used to standing side on to a target, however, in pistol shooting this is not the norm. The two main stances are the 'isosceles stance' and the 'Weaver stance'. To break it down into its simplest form, the Weaver stance is where you stand slightly side on to the target. If you are right-handed, then your right hand will drive the gun forward and be fully extended and the left hand will be bent and will help to absorb the recoil. This type of stance also

normally requires the shooter to keep his or her non-dominant eye shut.

The Weaver stance is still popular in some quarters, but over the years it has fallen out of favour with competition shooters and law enforcement. SWAT teams, the NRA and Three Gun competitors now favour and teach the isosceles stance. This is where you stand square on to the target, slightly bend the knees and drive both hands out equally. You will keep your arms slightly bent as this will help control the recoil and you can keep both eyes open and this will help if your eyes are cross dominant (Cross dominant, is for example, right-handed, but left-eye dominant) and it also increases your peripheral vision. Handy if someone may be shooting back at you.

### Get a Grip

If you watch the old westerns on TV, you will see that when a cowboy was shooting a handgun with both hands, they would often use the 'cup and saucer' style of shooting. They would take their left hand and lay it out flat and then place the butt of the pistol grip and their right hand in the centre of that palm. This may have been good for revolvers, but with modern semi-autos like the Glock, this is not a good way to hold a pistol.

When a semi-auto fires, it ejects the spent casing to the right-hand side of the firearm. Newton's third law states that if something moves in one direction, then an equal amount of force must travel in the opposite direction. So, as the casing is ejecting to the right, the gun is being forced to

**"My shooting technique works for me, but I bet it's every bit as 'rubbish' as Bernard's"**

*Right: Gary demonstrates the Isosceles stance*



*Below: Gary puts a full magazine in the Colt airgun. Note how his finger is away from the trigger*





the left.

So, to counter this, modern techniques teach that a handgun should be held with the shooter's bottom three fingers of the right hand on the grip, with the thumb then placed on the left-hand side of the frame. You then take three or four fingers of the left hand and place these on top of the three fingers of the right hand. The thumb from the left hand sits slightly below and forward of the right-hand thumb, but it still presses against the frame of the pistol just below the slide. This two-thumb approach on the pistol will prevent the pistol from being pushed to the left. The more hand you can get on the gun, the more control you will have.

### Trigger Pull

Now that you have your stance and grip, it's time to look at trigger pull. A handgun will have a heavier pull than an air pistol, but it's advisable to get into good habits now. When

you place your finger on the trigger blade, you want to use the fleshy bit on the pad of the trigger finger. If you use the first crease in your finger, you can pull the pistol to the right, if you use the tip, you can push the pistol to the left. Think about pulling it straight back through the frame and toward the hammer. This linear motion will give you better accuracy and controllability. Remember, always squeeze and never pull or snatch.

Once I had got to grips with these three main areas I started to practise. For this I used two main pistols. The first was an Airsoft Colt 1911. This affordable pistol enabled me to get used to dropping and loading the magazine, whilst keeping the weapon pointing downrange. The 1911 I have, has a working slide, so I got used to placing a magazine into the grip and cocking the pistol, all whilst keeping the pistol safe. I could also use it in the house for basic aiming techniques and getting used to gripping the

**Top left:** Do not hook your finger round the trigger blade

**Top right:** That's better. The fleshy bit of your finger pad should be on the trigger blade

**Above:** Gary makes the Colt replica ready

**Right:** The 'cup and saucer' grip may have been okay for cowboys, but it doesn't offer enough support for an semi-auto pistol



pistol correctly. I have now done this so much, it has become like second nature to hold a 1911 in the correct manner.

Secondly, I used the Desert Eagle to send pellets downrange. I found that if I breathed in whilst shooting, my pellet hit high and when I breathed out they hit low. With the Eagle, I refined my trigger technique and before long I was getting good groups at 10 yards.

The question now is will these skills that I have learnt enable me to shoot a large calibre handgun and shoot it better than a total novice?

### ... and Finally

I want to take this opportunity to thank Matt Clark. He has been the editor of Air Gunner ever since I started writing for the magazine and every month he turns my words into copy that is fit for publication. Matt is leaving Air Gunner for a job with more dancing girls and fast cars. You could not hope to find a more enthusiastic, professional, humble and decent man. Good luck in your new job, Matt. ■



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# AIR RATED

## What's the editor's favourite rifle? It's a question he is often asked and now he comes clean

It is often said that familiarity breeds contempt. Having had an Air Arms S400 on long-term loan for the magazine, I am very familiar with this rifle, but I am far from contemptuous of it. The more I use the S400, the more I love it.

### Performance

What appeals to me most about this rifle is its performance. Accuracy comes as standard. Quarter-inch groups at 35 yards are the norm, which has made it a popular rifle on the HFT circuit.

Nick Jenkinson, three times World Hunter Field Target Champion, was originally involved with the design of this rifle and he has used Air Arms rifles for many of his competitions.

One of the reasons I borrowed this rifle was so I could take part in more hunter field target events. You might argue that an adjustable stocked S400 MPR would be more suitable for that and you would be right in many ways. However, I've had an S410 (the multi-shot version of the S400) and I am familiar with that stock configuration and I'm someone - as you now know - who likes familiarity.

The logic behind this is that when I go from hunting to hunter field target, I won't be 'put out' by the change of rifle. I always believe that if you are comfortable you will shoot better. It has also been proved that sportsmen perform better when their equipment and surroundings are familiar, and this rifle has collected

**Main:** Matt spent a lot of time with the S400 in its various guises over the last seven and a bit years

**Above:** With its classic looks, the S400 won't date

### SPECS

Air Arms S400 Classic

Manufacturer: Air Arms

Tel: 01323 845853

Web: [www.air-arms.co.uk](http://www.air-arms.co.uk)

Action: Precharged, bolt-action, single-shot

Stock: Beech sporter

Length: 1020mm (40.25in)

Barrel: 493.5mm (19.5in)

Weight: 2.7kg (6lbs)

Trigger: Precision two-stage

Calibre: .177 and .22

Shots per fill: .177 calibre

80+, .22 calibre 100+

Cost: £452

a lot of silverware in its time, although this was in the hands of more skilled marksmen than me.

At the heart of the S400 is a tried and tested action. It isn't regulated (you wouldn't expect it to be at this price), but it is consistent and delivers perfect shot after perfect shot giving rock-solid performance. Mate this with a match-quality Lothar Walther barrel made to Air Arms specifications and you can understand why this is such an accurate rifle.

### Rekord or CD

The CD trigger is also excellent with a predictable let-off point and a cross-bolt safety mechanism. You may wonder what CD stands for. The story I have heard is that as mighty German gunmakers, Weihrauch, had a Rekord Trigger unit, the people at Air Arms thought it would have a laugh and so called their equally good

**"This rifle has collected a lot of silverware in its time, although this was in the hands of more skilled marksmen than me"**



trigger action the CD. This maybe an urban myth, but I like the story.

As on my Air Arms S410, the action is cycled by a bolt, and one thing I really like about the breech is that it is big enough to get my chunky fingers in, to place the pellet in the groove so that it can be easily seated by the probe.

At the price of around £500 this

rifle offers good value for money. There are other rifles around for this sort of money and they are good, but I chose the S400 because I knew the brand well, having had a couple of its rifles in the past and I also liked the classic looks of this rifle. It has been cleverly designed so that it won't date. Also, this rifle has an on-board pressure gauge, which is not usual for

**Above:** New writer, Theresa Reed, is an excellent HFT shooter and she also uses an Air Arms S400

**Above left:** Matt really rates this rifle

**Top left:** The S400 comes in a Super-lite and Classic version, but many shooters like to customise them

a rifle in the price bracket.

### Taking Stock

The S400 comes seated in various styles of stock. Naturally there is the choice of beech or walnut, but there is also a choice of classic stock, a thumbhole stock or a Super-lite stock. The Super-lites come in a choice of brown, natural wood or green.

Of course, some shooters prefer to customise their stock and go for a Gimb stock, just as Gary Chillingworth has done. Personally, I think the rifle is fine as it comes out of the factory, but I know many of you will want a more fitted or adjustable stock.

### Favourite Rifle

As editor of Air Gunner I have often been asked which is my favourite rifle and I would have to say that the S400 is one of my top choices. It offers performance and value for money. With its deep lustrous bluing it looks as if it's worth twice the money. I'm not saying that you can't get a better airgun than the S400, but you will be paying two or three times the money for one.

Now that I'm leaving my job as editor, I thought it was time to put my money where my mouth is and buy an S400. It's a fantastic airgun – I know because I've been using it for the last couple of years – and it fitted my budget perfectly. What more could you want? Well, there are a lot of other rifles I'd like to buy, but those will have to wait for the time being. ■

Air Gunner's Gary Chillingworth rates the S400. Here is with one in a Gimb stock



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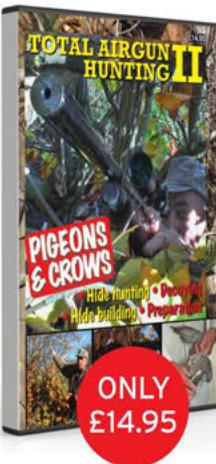
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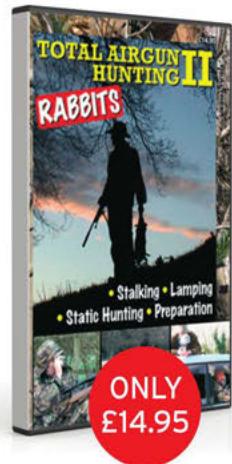
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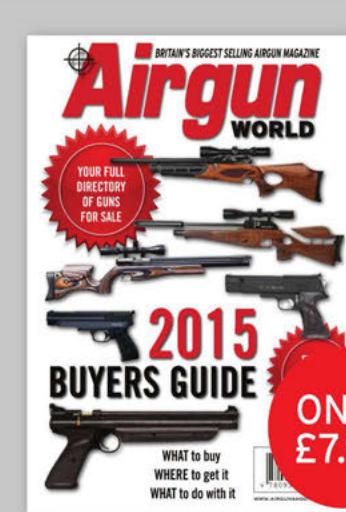
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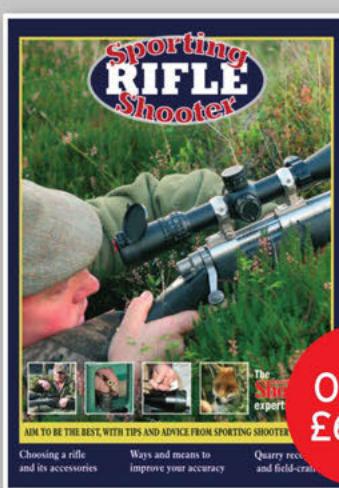
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# MY LIFE IN AIRGUNS



**"At that time it seemed logical to me that airguns were like cars in that the more you paid, generally the more powerful they were"**

In his final issue Matt Clark looks back at his shooting past

I'm a lucky man. For more than seven years now I've been able to test every new airgun that comes on to the British market and explore the potential of hundreds of shooting accessories, but now that is all to come to an end. As I deliver my last issue, it's time to tell you about the journey that has taken me from being a reader of *Air Gunner* to being its editor.

My earliest memory of airgunning is waking up one winter's morning in January 1979 to find my father and my brother out in the fresh snow shooting at one of my toy soldiers. My anger at one of my precious infantrymen being used for target practice was allayed when they let me have a go with the airgun. I was only small, so they had to cock the old Haenel Model 320 for me and I had to rest it on a chair as well as a cushion to take a shot, but I was hooked.

To my delight a few years later my father started to write for a shooting magazine called *Target Gun* in his spare time. He wasn't a journalist, but dad's interest in shooting had been rekindled by my cousin, Geoffrey Hoyle, when he was recuperating after a heart operation.

*Above: Matt's first PCP was an Air Arms S200*

*Right: Matt's father in his glory days!*

*Bottom right: This is the magazine Matt's father used to write for*

## Science Fiction

Geoff had shot pistol for England and was then the editor of the magazine. He was also a science-fiction writer and in one of his less serious books, *2011 Living in the Future*, (published in 1972 and reprinted in 2010) he even predicted internet shopping and skype. Something that cements my cousin Geoff as one of the good guys is the fact that he gave me my first shotgun, a single-barrelled BSA Snipe, which I still cherish.

Geoff's magazine was mainly about target shooting with firearms as well as airguns. The first assignment my dad got was to test a Feinwerkbau Model 300, which was a very expensive 10-metre match rifle. I remember him explaining to me how the shooter was isolated from the recoil due to a sled system that allowed the action to slide back, but the stock to remain still. I took very little of this in because all I wanted to do was shoot the damn thing.

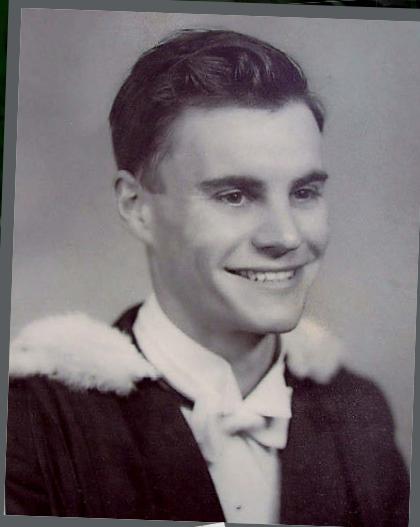
## Setting Your Sights

I was fascinated by the

dioptric sight which had a rubber cup to stop the action hitting the shooter's eye as it slid back. It was like nothing I'd ever seen before and I'm afraid that at that age I couldn't really see the point in it. For one thing it didn't magnify the target and it was very difficult to see through. I was used to open sights, or a primitive scope from Nikko Stirling that dated back to the early '70s, and state-of-the-art target sights just didn't appeal to me.

The next thing that amused me about the testing procedure was the fact that the target was only ten metres away. This seemed ridiculously close and I thought I could hardly fail to hit the bull. How wrong I was. Off hand I was struggling to get a good grouping. When I went prone, the groups closed up and I was rather pleased with my shooting. After lots of practice over countless days I was even getting good groups from a standing position.

My father wrote in his feature: "Seeing Matthew take to shooting and







rabbits, of which there were many.

The burbling becks (what Cumbrians call a stream) and glowering hills were the scenery of my youth. I often return there in my head when things get rough. To this day, hunting for me is about enjoying being outside, more than it is about killing things and if I return home empty-handed, then so be it.

I also liked buying shooting gear and I would spend a lot of my time and pocket money in gunshops like Betty's Corner in Appleby and Charles Sykes in Penrith. I'm happy to say that Sykes is still there and so is John Norris, where I got a lot of clothing.

## Change

Like many airgunners, things started to change in my late teens. Other things occupied my mind after the age of 18, although at university I joined the rifle club. However, I got bored with waiting around for my turn to shoot. My shooting friend, Peter, told me that he was thinking of joining the Officers Training Corps (OTC) because, "You are bound to get some shooting action there!" Before I knew it, I was undergoing an army medical, handed a uniform and was forced to do strenuous exercise whilst being sworn at by sergeants.

Nevertheless, I did manage to get some shooting in, although that would

often have a physical exercise element to it. The OTC had an indoor shooting range and Wednesday afternoons were set aside for shooting days. I seem to remember that we shot the standard army issue SA80 assault rifle with a .22 calibre sleeve in the barrel, which enabled us to use target rounds. We certainly got to shoot regularly, but it was a lot more regimented than at the rifle club.

I drifted in and out of the Territorial Army after university and ended up in Milan Platoon where I learned to shoot the MILAN anti-tank missile system. I also did some work with the Media Operations Group (v) and travelled round part of the world.

## Airgunning Again

It wasn't until I was nearly thirty years old that my interest in airguns was finally rekindled. At that time, a family friend persuaded me to join his local clay pigeon club and this got me back into shooting. Not only was I enjoying clay shooting again, but also my interest in airgun was reignited and when a man gets an interest in a hobby, it usually starts by buying an expensive bit of kit. So, I set about looking for an airgun to buy.

After much deliberation my choice boiled down to a Weihrauch HW9 springer, or an Air Arms S200 pre-charged pneumatic. I opted for the



Air Arms because I'd never had a PCP before and was keen to try one. After buying the rifle and a pump I was pretty much out of cash and after pumping the S200 up I was pretty much out of breath as well. However, I loved the rifle and it wasn't long before I upgraded it for an S410. A multi-shot PCP was something I could only dream of as a kid because they just didn't exist in those days.

## Dream Job

Another thing that I could only have dreamed of when I was a kid was to be editor of an airgun magazine. My father used to bring various shooting magazines home for me to read and one of those was the new *Air Gunner*. Even when I was a student and airgunning didn't occupy much of my time, I still bought *Air Gunner* and would dream of the time when I had a grown-up job and enough money to buy a new airgun. After all, you have to have dreams - and when I finally got that proper grown-up job, I was lucky enough for it to be as editor of *Air Gunner*.

*Above: Matt (pictured here with his mother) took a bit of a break from airgunning at university to get his degree*

*Left: The Feinwerkbau Model 300 was state of the art in its day, but now looks a bit old-fashioned*

*Top: This is the gunned-up carnival float. Matt's dad is seated on the right. The spelling of 'Roland' seems to differ from that in the history books*

*Below: Matt with his modified S410*

Now my time as editor has drawn to a close. I have enjoyed every minute of my time as editor and I want to thank you, the readers, for your support over the years. It was always nice to see you at the game fairs and British Shooting Show and I now go from being editor and return to being one of you, an airgunner. ■



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# AIRGUN COLLECTION

BY JOHN ATKINS

## Firearms Quality Airguns by John Atkins

Additional Photographs by Eberhard Groba and Nigel Allen

In this article, I'm showing some collectable obsolete airguns employing traditional gunmaking materials and I also hope to explain why the use of modern materials and methods in today's airguns is a necessary and good evolution, allowing modern airguns to be produced that are affordable - especially in these days of austerity, when there's no point in making products that few can afford.

Enthusiasts naively enquire if Webley

(having re-introduced a Tempest Centennial 'Barrel-over-cylinder' traditional air pistol presented in a classic wood-and-leather carrying case and an attractive CO<sub>2</sub> version of their famous Webley Mk. VI Service Revolver) can now produce a retro copy of the long obsolete 'Service' Mark II air rifle exactly as before. This seems highly impractical

when you think of the literally hundreds of separate operations and inspections that went into the production of this air rifle before it was replaced in 1946 by the underlever Mark III because of manufacturing costs.

In his classic book *Gas, Air & Spring Guns of the World*, back in 1957, W. H. B. Smith refers to some airguns like the Webley 'Senior' air pistol with no stampings used, as being of 'Firearms quality throughout' - meaning they were solidly built by gunsmiths, from steel. Now many military firearms use modern materials and pressings and the Austrian army Glock frame is made from recoil absorbing plastic, the comparison is probably not so clearly defined and applicable nowadays.

The German Hubertus air pistol was another described in past reviews as 'of firearms quality'. Made of steel and walnut, my rifled barrel example s. no. 11168 is shown partly dismantled in Figure 1. The late firearms historian Bernard Hinchley once found a spare barrel for a Hubertus and also a forged steel frame and, not realising they were associated, he sent me the frame (shown in *Air Gunner*, April last year) as a gift, asking if I could identify the small firearm he thought the frame might have come from. Bernard had not seen a complete Hubertus air pistol before, so he'd been puzzled by the frame and was interested to know the origin. I don't know what happened to the barrel.

The solid construction of the basic Hubertus even allowed a 'combination' version to be offered around 1927 to also fire 4mm Flobert ammunition. A Hubertus s. no. 8821 from Eberhard Groba's fabulous collection is shown in Figure 2 with the hinged barrel and air chamber lifted for breech loading. To allow this, the piston has been previously forced backwards into the

Figure 1



Figure 2



**F**ast reviews as 'of firearms quality'. Made of steel and walnut, the author's rifled barrel example s. no. 11168 is shown partly dismantled

Figure 2: Hubertus s. no. 8821. The piston having been previously forced backwards against mainspring pressure by pushing in the barrel until cocked - allowed the hinged barrel and air chamber to be lifted for breech loading. [Photo courtesy of Eberhard Groba]

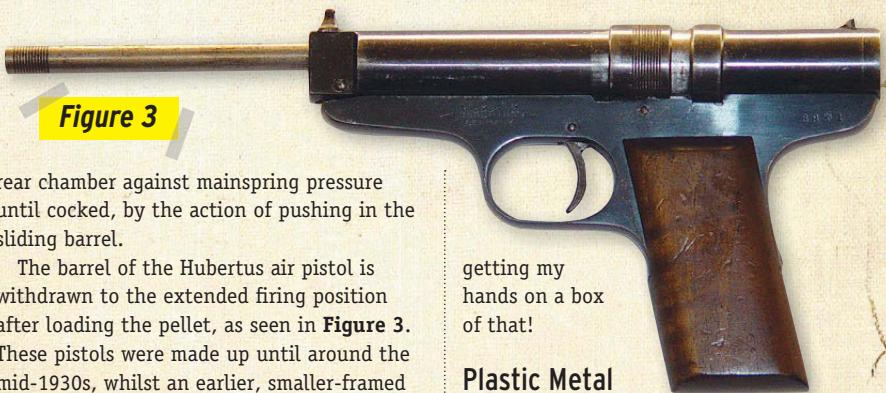


Figure 3

rear chamber against mainspring pressure until cocked, by the action of pushing in the sliding barrel.

The barrel of the Hubertus air pistol is withdrawn to the extended firing position after loading the pellet, as seen in **Figure 3**. These pistols were made up until around the mid-1930s, whilst an earlier, smaller-framed version of the pistol had appeared around the mid-20s until replaced by the more powerful, larger frame model. The Haenel Model 28 (**Figure 4**) was also an air pistol of high-quality steel construction from a long-established (in 1840) maker of firearms.

As a small boy growing up in the 1950s (the 'decade of DIY'), materials for making things were not difficult to find, but I was to learn that any job is hard if you haven't got the right tools. I'd be given a set of top quality, adult woodworking tools by my parents (rather than a kid's set of toy tools) and after being taught the basics - like keeping both hands behind the chisel edges to avoid finger loss - I was left to get on with it. Using books, I taught myself how to cut basic joints and any errors I rectified with a filler product I found in our shed called Rawlplug 'Plastic Wood' - that is still going strong. This early formula version seemed to be around in the years before the other sophisticated and familiar fillers of today were developed. Even 'Polyfilla' - the cellulose-based wood and plaster filler wasn't invented until 1954 by the clever chemist Dr. Neumann - and I can still recall my excitement on first

getting my hands on a box of that!

### Plastic Metal

While I was happy making gunstocks, I had no metalworking tools until later, so cutting gun frames or even small parts from the solid was beyond me and I needed some method of producing them. After Saturday morning Junior Art School (where I was sent from age eight by my primary school), instead of going straight home on the 'bus, I took to visiting the nearby local Woolworth store to look at the excellent DIY section selling surprisingly good-quality tools and paint. It was there I saw a new product, which I thought might be the answer to my problems - allowing complicated metal shapes that would be otherwise be impossible to form without tools. It was called 'Plastic Metal'. For some weeks I would spend all my pocket money on tubes of 'Plastic Metal'.

Once I'd accumulated enough of the product, I made wooden moulds with dowel rod pegs where I wanted holes to be in my finished components, and tried to squeeze the material in. Instead of the shiny, pre-drilled' steel components I'd hoped would be dropping out my moulds, crumbly, grey lumpy shapes appeared, which fell to bits

**Figure 3:** The barrel of the Hubertus air pistol is withdrawn to the extended firing position after loading the pellet. [Photo courtesy of Eberhard Groba]

**Figure 4:** The Haenel Model 28 was also an air pistol of high-quality steel construction from a long-established (in 1840) maker of firearms

**Figure 5:** Top: Early Webley Mark III air rifle breech area with nicely shaped solid steel loading tap lever. Below: Later, replaced by a sintered bar-shaped component part no. 1003 from early 1966. Centre: Broken sintered tap lever found on the lower rifle, since replaced.

when I handled them. After many failed attempts, I realised, with sadness, 'Plastic Metal' of the 1950s was not a suitable product for casting gun parts from! It was probably for some other use but I never read the tube to learn what that was. Unlike the tough metal epoxy putty of today that can apparently be drilled, tapped, filed and

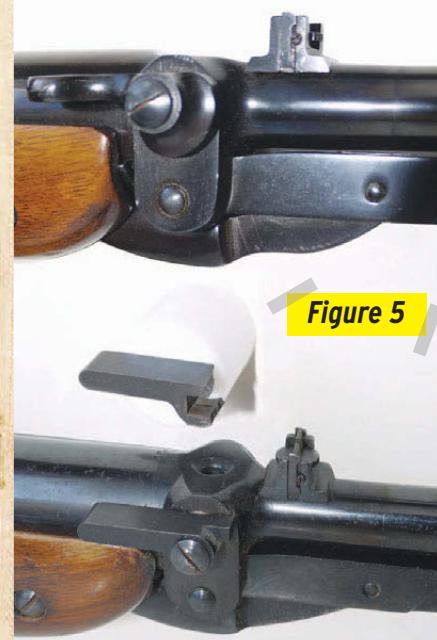


Figure 5



Figure 4



Figure 7

Figure 6: Even solid steel can break at vulnerable points. See the missing thumb lever from the stirrup of the older Webley 'Senior' at the top

Figure 7: Possibly unused, official Webley photograph of the 'Senior' taken late 1930s by Monger & Marchant, Commercial Photographers of London

Figure 8: Sterling HR 81 underlever air rifle s. no. 1023 and carton. Standard .22" early production example with bolt action and fitted sights from the Webley Airgun Museum Collection. [Photo courtesy of Nigel Allen]

technology, to briefly explain what sintered metal is, it's a type of metal that's undergone the sintering process during which powdered metal is heated below the point of melting until the particles form a molecular bond. The three main stages are powdering, moulding and compacting. The steel ore is turned into powder by one of four ways - one of which is grinding. Blending takes place with the metal powders mixed with other alloys and/or lubricants to produce ingredients uniform in composition. A compaction stage comes next with the powder packed into the die or mould at room temperature and subject to compacting pressures of maybe 30 or 50 tons per square inch.

During the sintering process, the pressed parts are heat-treated to fuse or bond together the pressed powder particles. Among the many secondary operations like reaming and grinding, the sintered metal may be re-pressed to reduce the porosity. You may have noticed that sintered parts on airguns can often soak up oil like a sponge. In some applications, like bearings, this is a good thing in order to retain lubrication. The uneven particles can blunt machining tools, so while easy to shape, sintered metal can be hard to machine or polish.

Even solid steel can break at vulnerable points. See the missing, snapped-off thumb lever of the older Webley 'Senior' at the top of Figure 6. It's always best with very old 'Seniors' to protect the component by drawing back the top (as you would with a Mk. I style sliding top latch) to avoid breakage of the thumb lever. The sintered metal component replacing this stirrup catch on the later 'Premier' model had a much wider, circular boss for strength at



Figure 6

machined, my early 'Plastic Metal' seemed to have no tensile strength whatsoever.

My boyhood experiments were not a million miles away from the way sintered steel components are made today in one respect, this being - it's less labour intensive

and expensive to have the holes moulded in the die or mould, to save costly machining later, but in my case I was just thinking ahead, as I didn't possess a drill.

Top of Figure 5 is an early Webley Mark III air rifle showing the breech area with nicely-shaped, solid steel loading tap lever. On the later versions of the Mark III (seen lower) this was replaced by a sintered bar-shaped component part no. 1003 for the reason of cost reduction from around early 1966. Between the two rifles I've included (balanced on the cap of my Pritt glue stick to raise it into focus) the broken sintered tap lever found on the lower rifle, I've since replaced by a new sintered component I bought directly from Webley many years ago. No, it wasn't me who chewed up the screw slot - that was already damaged. Sintered material is normally durable and can be very strong and to be fair to the sintered lever, we don't know the circumstances of it breaking. While there are no hammer marks on it, the tap might have been seized up and excessive pressure exerted on it without first trying some suitable release fluid. (I did buy it from a person built rather like a gorilla - but she was a very pleasant woman who let me have the rifle for £25).

While I'm no expert on powder metal



Figure 8



**STERLING**

Airguns

**HR 81**

This revolutionary air rifle provides the shooter with the utmost in power, accuracy and quality of finish. It is manufactured entirely from steel, and no plastic or Mazak castings are used in its construction.

We have designed the Sterling HR81 to give the ease of operation, and convenience of use that you would expect from a bolt action gun, with bolt action loading for greater accuracy.

To meet the demands of the sporting airgunner, the HR81 has been carefully manufactured to the highest standards, yet it is a very light weight gun, combining with compactness and accuracy.

The unique feature of the Sterling HR81 is unique in a spring powered air rifle, and has been adopted to give a fixed alignment of barrel and sight system, yet in a form which allows the pellet to be loaded in a straight line to the breech. This gives the HR81 an advantage over other air rifles in this class.

An integral sizing chamber is located immediately in front of the breech, which uniformly sizes the pellet to give greater consistency from shot to shot and improve accuracy potential.

The 6 band rifling features a fast twist of one turn in 12 inches, which gives the pellets faster spin in flight for even greater accuracy.

The trigger is fully adjustable for weight of pull between 2 and 6 lbs pressure, and for sear engagement, and is grooved to give non-slip surface for positive shooting. The trigger is colour hardened, a real touch which underlines the traditional gunmaking craftsmanship of the Sterling range.

For compatibility with different sight systems, the 12mm sight rail has an overall length of 222mm (8 5/8 inches) and is drilled to accept arrester studs.

The barrel has a straight line weight transfer port of only 1 1/4 inches, which improves the efficiency of the spring powered system.

All these features combine to make the Sterling HR81 a functional, accurate, hard hitting sporting air rifle yet within the 12lb. lbs. limit allowed by law.

**SPECIFICATION**

Calibres	.177" 20"
Length	22" 24 1/2"
Weight	18 lbs
Barrel	19 1/2"
Mo. of Grooves	6
Pitch of Riffing	1 turn in 11.34"
Twist of Riffing	right hand
Sights	V-type adjustable
Rear	Target-type
Front	3 element interchangeable
Stock	Hardwood with checkering and fitted rubber recoil pad
Accuracy	Better than 2" at 45 yards.

**Air Pistols**

Sterling offer the following air pistols, in 0.177 calibre. Imported weapons, they are ideal for the young starting shooting and provide the more experienced shooter with an economical means of practice.

I.G. 202  
Overall Length 13", Weight 2 1/2 lbs.  
Blitz  
Overall Length 12", Weight 1 1/2 lbs.  
HS 90  
Overall Length 8", Weight 9 ozs.



this point around the stirrup pivot screw. Unfortunately, it didn't polish up nicely like the rest of the 'Premier', presumably because of its granular structure.

I'm including the old mono photograph as **Figure 7** as it's an official Webley photograph of the 'Senior' taken late 1930s by Monger & Marchant, Commercial Photographers of London. Believed intended for use in late 1930s Webley catalogues, but not used to the best of my knowledge - although it might have appeared in some pre-war magazine I haven't seen. Arthur Peter Monger and Harold Read Marchant had a studio in Chancery



Lane, Holborn in 1917-1940. This fine photograph and another from the same session were found in a bent and dilapidated state among Webley archive publicity material and I've restored both, thanks to the wonders of 'Photoshop'.

Back in November 1977, my late friend, Dennis Commins, the *Guns Review* airgun writer quite innocently, but wrongly, referred to the alloy used in the construction of the new BSA Buccaneer air rifle as 'Monkey Metal' - using the expression as used by metalworkers to describe anything other than plain steel. BSA possibly complained - as Dennis retracted with a: 'Monkey metal' - no! heading the next month, saying the term used to be derogatory and he really must not use it as he'd proved from his own experiments that 'modern materials' are just as good as their predecessors. 'Monkey Metal' was just another name for 'pot metal' - used to describe non-ferrous scrap from manufacturing gathered up in a workshop and melted down in one pot to cast

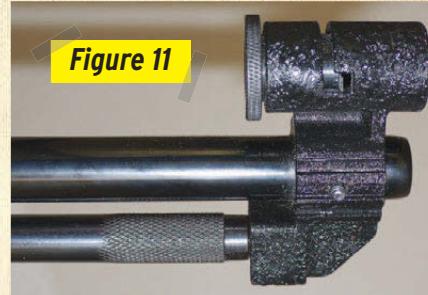
inferior products of no fixed or standardised ingredients.

**Sterling HR 81**

The Sterling HR 81 underlever .22 sporting air rifle appeared in 1982. Letters published in *Airgun World* in May of that year were from both Sterling supporters and critics - one calling it a 'Heath Robinson' contraption - quite unfairly in my opinion. I'm indebted to Nigel Allen for the photograph in **Figure 8** he took while at Webley & Scott, of a Sterling HR 81 underlever air rifle s. no. 1023 and carton. Standard .22" early production example with bolt action and fitted sights, this rifle was part of the Webley Airgun Museum Collection before it was sold in June 2006. The Collection included a few non-Webley items because all big firms buy examples of rival manufacturers' products in order to see what they are up to.

**Figure 9** is reproduced from the early '80s Sterling Armament Company Ltd. *Guns & Accessories* catalogue advertising the HR 81 along with inexpensive imported air pistols in this airgun section among the pages of Armalite AR-180 5.56 mm rifles and Sterling Mark 8, 9mm sub-machine carbines. Advertised as 'manufactured entirely from steel, and no plastic or Mazak castings are used in its construction'. Mazak being zinc-based alloy.

The Sterling HR 81 had a good open



rearsight with a fully adjustable sintered steel blade. It was mounted on the breech block as shown in **Figure 10** and, while allowing a long scope to be fitted, it was situated rather too far forward to suit some shooters who enjoy using open sights.

**Figure 11** details the foresight unit combined with the cocking lever catch underneath. Both my Sterlings have this component finished in 'crackle black' - rather than colour-hardened, as earlier examples appear to be. To match them, the trigger guards are also finished in black crackle enamel. The latch of the HR 81 wasn't positive enough to fit a sling to the underlever - that improvement had to wait for the later HR 83 model, appearing in early 1983 complete with a fully adjustable (and troublesome) two-stage trigger unit with no fewer than 18 parts - if you include pins and springs. Over hardening of sears, making them brittle, contributed to Sterling soon reverting to a slightly improved two-piece trigger for the HR 83.

At the top of **Figure 12** is my HR 81 s. no. 4050 with Sterling Bisley deluxe 4 x 32 wide Japanese scope and lower boxed example s. no. 3245 in mint condition. The Sterling catalogue stated accuracy was better than a 2-inch group at 45 yards. After a five-day wait for still conditions, I tried out both my .22" Sterlings on an outdoor range measuring out the 41 metres with a surveyor's tape. I swapped the Sterling 4 x 32 armoured scope around on both examples, firing at a target with an 8-inch outer blue ring and a 2-inch

**Figure 9:** Airgun page from the early '80s Sterling Armament Company Ltd. *Guns & Accessories* catalogue also advertised inexpensive imported air pistols

**Figure 10:** Good open rearsights with a fully adjustable sintered blade are mounted on the Sterling breech block allowing a long scope to be fitted

**Figure 11:** The foresight unit combined with the cocking lever catch underneath on both Sterlings tested is finished in 'crackle black' - rather than colour-hardened as some other examples

**Figure 12:** Top: HR 81 s. no. 4050 with Sterling Bisley deluxe 4 x 32 wide Japanese scope and lower boxed example s. no. 3245 in mint condition

**Figure 13:** The loading port allows straight-line loading to breech via a cutaway forming a trough

**Figure 14:** The best 10-shot group achieved at 45 yards (approx. 41 metres) with the Sterling HR 81 put 4 in the 2 inch black (as the original accuracy specification) proving the claim was quite feasible in the hands of a better and more practiced shot than I



**Figure 12**

black using a variety of both German and British roundheads. I'm rusty, as I've had no time to practise shooting recently and my target cards seemed a very long away. The Sterling isn't pellet fussy and the unique loading port (Figure 13) allows straight line loading to breech via a cutaway forming a trough, with the pellet pushed forward into the integral sizing chamber by the action of working the spring-loaded bolt/pellet pusher forward to close.

I found the rifles top heavy, even without the Sterling 'scope on, so resisted the temptation to fit a bigger 'scope that might increase the problem. It's fair criticism to say the underlever is where the barrel should be and barrel is in the normal sightline. The superb polishing and bluing must have cost a fortune in labour. It looks like what the old-time men would have called an 'engineer's gun' - not a 'gunmaker's gun'.

With open sights (square notch and both tapered post and bead foresights) and without a rifle rest, I managed to get all the roundheads onto the 14-inch by 10-inch card, although many were way outside the concentric rings and my lack of practice showed. On one card, half of them were hitting the rhino in the back legs or hindquarters. Appalling shooting and if I continued to wound him, the African Game

Department would probably have my licence taken away, but I can always blame my ancient, hard contact lenses - as I've worn this same pair every day for the last 44 years without losing them and eyesight tests show them to be a little too strong as my eyesight has improved with age of late.

The best 10-shot group achieved at 45 yards (approx. 41 metres) is reproduced as Figure 14 where the Sterling HR 81 put four in the 2-inch black (as the original accuracy specification) proving the claim was quite feasible in the hands of a better and more practiced shot than I am. Four more fell in the 3-inch ring and the remaining two in the 4.5-inch ring, the roundheads tearing the

paper target I'd 'Spraymounted' onto thin hard card to give it some rigidity. When I tried to scan the best card to use here, the 'flaps' torn by the pellets closed up again. So I've had to ring them in red in the hope the pellet entry can be better seen.

Both rifles shoot smoothly, the simple two-piece trigger units work well with a combination of adjustments to sear engagement and pull weight. Love them or loathe them, Sterlings will become very much sought after by collectors of the future as a throwback to the days of beautifully polished and richly blued steel made by traditional gunmakers sadly gone. ■

**Figure 13**



**STERLING HR 81**  
45 Yards 2 inch black  
10-shot string



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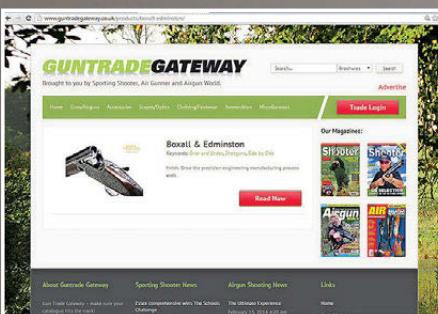
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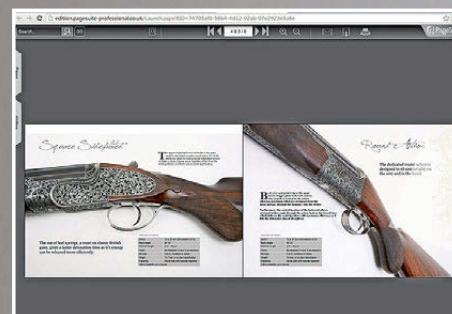
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# MOHAWK DARTS

Charlie McFee relives some old-fashioned fun with some new darts

When I was a kid we all wanted to have airgun darts, however they were in short supply and tended to get lost somehow, most probably because we shot at darts targets, like apples. Don't ask me why. I guess we hoped that something spectacular would happen, but of course, it didn't. There was also the claim that if you shot their steel bodies through a rifled barrel, it would cause damage, but while introducing their new Black Mohawk Airgun Darts, Milbro claim that's not true. They asked me to produce evidence of such damage which I couldn't, so I'll have to take their word for it.

## Not So Simple

Although darts appear to be simple things, they are apparently difficult to make. In fact, only one German

manufacturer is able to do it, so Milbro sourced the South American mohair and brought it to the UK for colouring. It's then shipped to Germany where it's applied to the steel dart by a special technique that ensures that it's strongly attached. Milbro chose a range of colours to allow each shooter to see where their shot landed, especially important if you're playing darts.

To have some fun, I bought a £20 cheapo dartboard that has a concentric target painted on the back, which appealed to me more than the front. To shoot them, I chose a Crosman pump-up because it would allow me to adjust the power level. I didn't know how much power I'd need to stabilise the darts and this way I could choose. I also liked the recoilless nature of the pistol.

It loads via a small bolt action which

**Above: Accuracy was good enough to be a real test of the shooter's skill**

## SPECS

.177 £9.99  
.22 £11.99  
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[www.milbro.co.uk](http://www.milbro.co.uk)

**Below: Our Art Director did a Robin Hood and shot one into another**



**Left: The simple Crosman pump-up proved ideal for a game of darts**



makes a challenge of getting the dart seated deeply enough, but a poke with a matchstick soon overcame that one. With the dart board at six yards, we began shooting and were surprised at the accuracy.

We soon worked out that three pumps were enough and were getting decent accuracy, but there was a temptation to move back to see how we could do at longer range. Unsurprisingly, accuracy fell away quickly and the occasional dart failed to stick in and bounced off onto the floor. Perhaps that distance was too much for a low-power pistol to manage.

Back at exactly 7' 9 1/4" (the official darts distance from the oche) we found much more fun because we were able to hit with reasonable consistency. Hitting is motivating, missing too much isn't, and more than anything this game needs to be fun. The darts stuck in deeply, needing pliers to get them out sometimes, which served as a warning to any idiot who might think it funny to shoot at a friend with them. They'll do every bit as much damage as a pellet, so don't think they won't. They're great fun, though, and many a cold winter night could be brightened up with a good game of indoor airgun darts. ■

# STARTER FOR TEN

## IT'S YOUR MAGAZINE

We want to create a magazine that meets your needs and one you can't wait to read

each month. To help us to keep improving *Air Gunner*, we would like you to answer the questions below and give us your views. You can photocopy the page if you don't want to ruin your magazine, or email me your answers. 'Starter for Ten' will be

published most months, but the questions will vary from time to time. If you have any suggestions, then don't hesitate to email or write to us. Through listening to what you have to say, we want to represent that and celebrate everything about our hobby.

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### 2. ARE THERE ENOUGH HUNTING FEATURES IN THE MAGAZINE?

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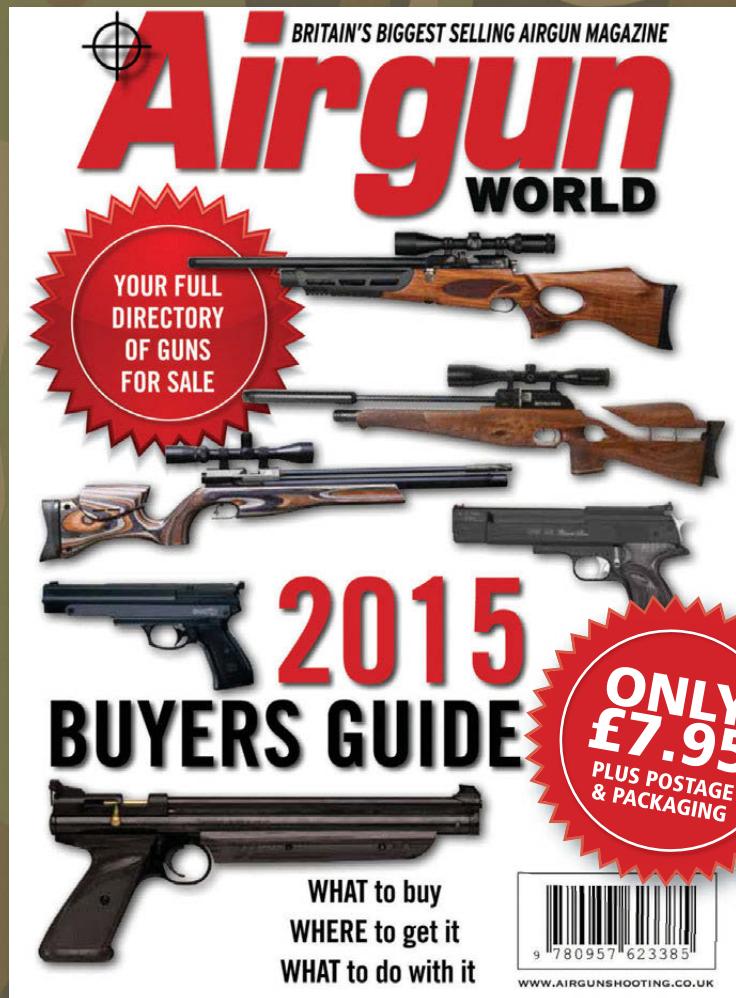
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# GREY GOODS

Jerry Moss takes us through the kit he uses to control the greys

The Penrith and District Red Squirrel Society is often asked for information on how best to tackle problems with grey squirrels. The people requesting this advice range from those who have issues with greys taking over the garden, stealing all the bird feed and causing general havoc, to gamekeepers whose woodlands have become overrun. It isn't always the 'how' they are after, but more about

which tools are the best ones control the vermin.

So, this month (and continued in next month's edition) we will be giving you a definitive kit list that we use as red squirrel rangers, in our endeavours to protect this endangered species.

**Air Rifle, Shotgun and Rimfire Rifles**

An essential piece of kit! With a wide variety of options on the market it is down to personal preference,

*Above: The Wolverine B is getting some hard usage*

*Main: Jerry is using his Jack Pyke effectively and concealing himself well*

*Below: Binos save you looking through your rifle scope to check out a potential target*



and what you can afford. Having a good scope and getting to know your rifle (and its limits) is paramount. For beginners, setting up targets somewhere safe to shoot, and practise, is crucial before turning your sights on live quarry. We also use shotguns and rimfire rifles (.17 hmr and/or .22 lr) where needed. A few of the Rangers use a moderated 410 shotgun in noise-sensitive areas.

## Clothing

Also an essential piece of kit! Choosing the right clothing can certainly help in your endeavours when out hunting. Knowing your permission and taking in to account the season (i.e. winter, leaf on the ground, frost/snow). Using your camo to help you to blend in with your surroundings, is essential.

Footwear choice is also important. Trainers are no good when facing demanding terrain, so a good, sturdy, waterproof pair of boots is often best. We use Jack Pyke gear because the company has a good range of camo patterns and, having been used on a daily basis (often seven days a week),



their clothing has more than stood up to the tasks demanded upon it. My general rule is: cover as much skin as possible and stay warm and dry.

### Binoculars

If you are out stalking, or sitting watching a feeder, it's good to have a set of binoculars. It's good practice to use binoculars when you have seen movement in the distance, rather than raising your rifle to use the scope.

After all, if you are not sure what it is in the distance, you don't know what you are pointing your rifle at.

### Thermal-imaging Camera and Lanyard

We use FLIR thermal-imaging cameras due to the nature of our job, and the importance of tracking down greys as soon as possible when near areas of red squirrel populations. Although expensive, they are highly effective for spotting squirrels, often at some distance when patrolling woods. The lanyard can be very handy for when cycling between camera, binoculars and rifles, having them all at hand.

### Radios

Especially when working in pairs or more and using firearms it is not only a fantastic way to stay safe, but also to let one another know what you have seen, where it is you are moving to, and if you require assistance. We use the Mitex (licensed) 5Watt radios, giving us superb range.

### Knife

Knives can be needed for several reasons when out hunting, from setting up feeders/traps, to skinning/gutting your quarry. Make sure you are aware of the laws when carrying knives, for example it is illegal to carry a knife in public without good reason - unless it's a knife with a folding blade three-inches long (7.62 cm) or less, eg. a Swiss Army knife.

Lock knives (knives with blades that can be locked when unfolded) are not folding knives, and are illegal to carry in public without good reason.

I'm sure much of the above is obvious to the veterans of the hunting world out there, but this may help, especially to those new or wishing to

*Top right: A thermal imager helps the group to spot greys in the branches very quickly*



*Above: It's good to talk, and letting your shooting buddy know where you are is essential*

enter the world of vermin control.

We have certainly found that sharing one another's ideas and practices often helps us progress, and we'd love to hear from you if you have any ideas, practices you use or general comments/questions.

Look out for next month's edition when we will finish off our kit list. ■

### Follow Jerry on Facebook

For more info:



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Penrith-and-District-Red-Squirrel-Group/487229667979369?ref=ts>

### INFORMATION

For more information or to make a donation visit: [www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk](http://www.penrithredsquirrels.org.uk), email [info@penrithredsquirrels.org.uk](mailto:info@penrithredsquirrels.org.uk) or call 07751 887494



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**LEUPOLD VXII 3-9 X 33** EFR fine duplex gold ring telescopic sight. Brand new and unused, cost £470, unwanted gift £375. Tel: 0174 9841774 (Somerset).

**Shop, Evolution House, 2-6 Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, RG40 2EG.** Please include your name, address, telephone number and a maximum of 40 words and make all cheques or PO's payable to 'Air Gunner'. Get your information to us by 10th MARCH for your chance to be in our MAY issue. We cannot guarantee which issue your advert will appear in. Please note that we cannot take your advert over the phone, though for any further information call Sharon on 01189 742 524

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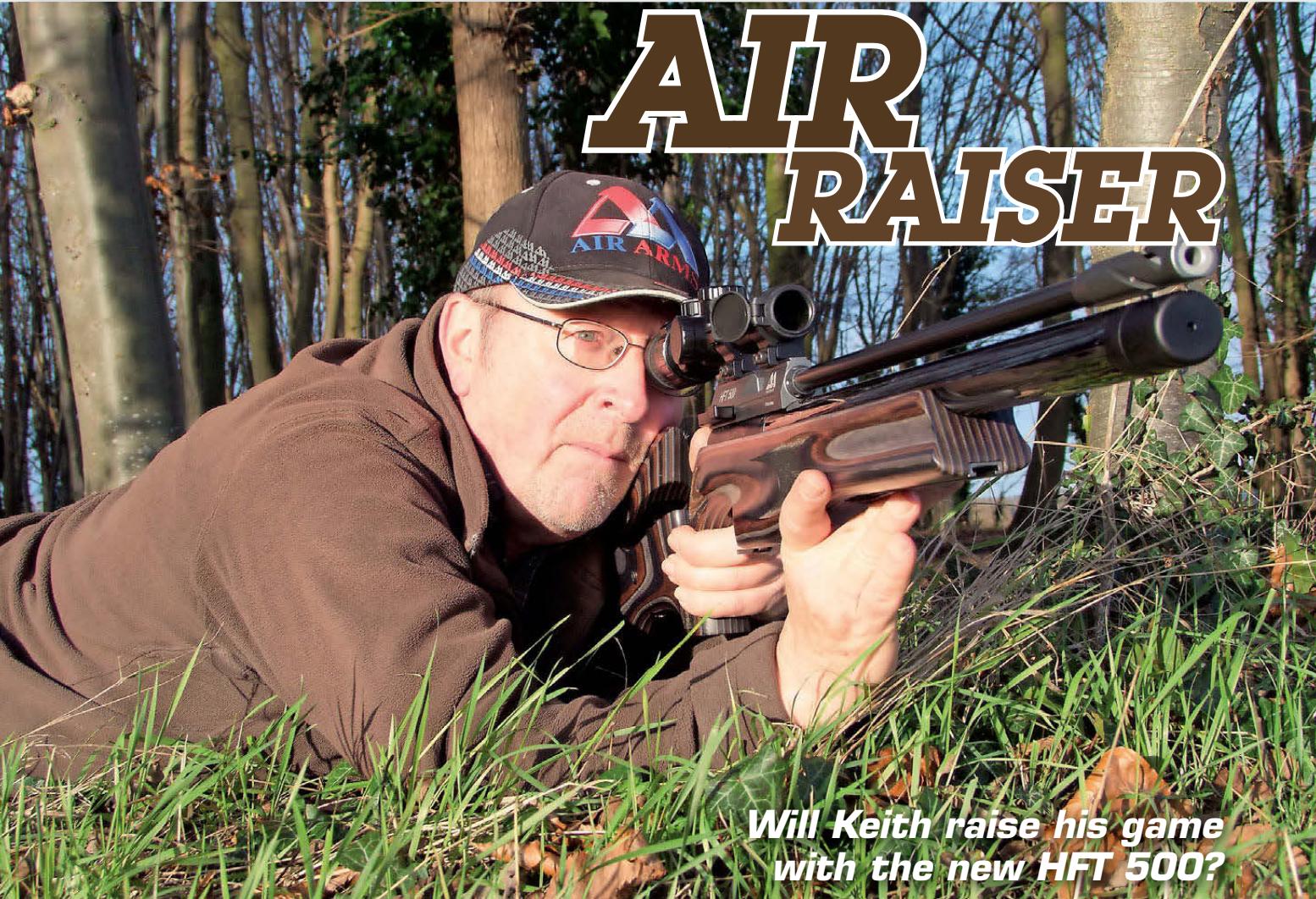
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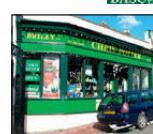
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Complimenting the vast range of firearms, Portsmouth Gun Centre also carries a large amount of accessories, ammunition, clothing and miscellaneous shooting equipment.

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Unit 16 Globe Works Industrial Estate, Grays, Essex RM17 6ES

Tel: 01375 658000 Web: [www.riflesports.co.uk](http://www.riflesports.co.uk)

Credit cards:  

Airguns and accessories including: Scopes, Bi-pods, Lamps, Night Vision, Airguns, Pellets, & much more. Country Clothing by Jack Pyke, Ridgeline, Realtree, Web-Tex, and Napier. Scopes by ushnell, Nikko, Sabre, SMK and Nikon



### RONNIE SUNSHINES

4 Canalside, Northbridge Road

Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 1EG

Tel/Fax: 01442 872829

Email: [info@ronniesunshines.com](mailto:info@ronniesunshines.com)

Web: [www.ronniesunshines.com](http://www.ronniesunshines.com)

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9 - 5

Credit cards:  



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### STRINGTOWN SUPPLIES

29 High Street, Polegate

East Sussex BN26 5AB

Tel: 01323 488844

Email: [stringtownsupplies@btinternet.com](mailto:stringtownsupplies@btinternet.com)

Web: [www.stringtownsupplies.com](http://www.stringtownsupplies.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stringtownsupplies](http://www.facebook.com/stringtownsupplies)

Opening hours: 9.30-5.30 MON-SAT 10.30-2.30 SUN

Credit cards:  



Why not visit our amazing shop ("The Aladdin's Cave" as its known!) Secondhand and new airguns. Air Arms, BSA, Crosman, Gamo, Hawke, SMK, Umarex, Webley, Weihrauch etc. Plus: Army surplus, camo clothing, Jack Pyke, archery, crossbows, airsoft, de-acts, paintball. Mail order service. Also dealer to dealer.

### SCOTLAND

### BORDERS GUNROOM

Main St, St Boswells, Melrose, TD6 0AA

Tel/Fax: 01835 822444

Email: [bordersgunroom@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bordersgunroom@yahoo.co.uk)

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Glasgow, G41 2ET

Tel: 0141 6322005

Web: [www.tackleandguns.net](http://www.tackleandguns.net)

Email: [bruce@tackleandguns.net](mailto:bruce@tackleandguns.net)

Opening hours: Mon - Sat, 10am - 5pm

Credit cards:  



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# GUN SHOPS

Directory Key: Trade Associations: **BASC** BASC Trade Member

GTA Trade Member **COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE** Countryside Alliance Trade Member

Countryside Alliance Trade Member

Items stocked: Airguns Pistols Optics Clothing/ Footwear Knives Decoys & Hides Pellets & Accessories AirSoft Archery & Equipment Gun safes



## SCOTLAND

### WONDERLAND MODELS

97 + 101 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9AN

Tel: 0131 229 6428

Fax: 0131 229 7625

Email: sales@wonderlandmodels.com

Web: www.wonderlandmodels.com

Opening hours: 9.30 - 6.00

Credit cards:

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### DRAGON FIELD SPORTS

8 Egerton Street, Wrexham Town Centre

**BASC**

Tel: 01978 290990

Fax: 01978 311141

Email: dragonfieldsports@googlemail.com

Web: www.dragonfieldsports.co.uk

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm

Credit cards:

Full range of: Air Rifles, Air Pistols, CO2 Pistols, Shotguns, Firearms. Also: Scopes, Lamps, Ammo, Camo Clothing, Archery. Servicing and Repairs.

## VALLEY ARMS

Bolero Camp, Park Road, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 1NB



Tel/Fax: 01824 704438

Email: info@valleyarms.co.uk

Web: www.valleyarms.co.uk

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Tues & Thurs 7 - 9pm, Sat 9 - 4.30

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Tel: 0161 681 7947

Fax: 0161 684 8092

Web: www.manchesterairguns.co.uk

Opening hours: 9.30 - 5pm. Closed Sun

Credit cards: All credit cards accepted



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### MOOREGES AIRGUNS

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Tel: 01405 741706

Fax: 01405 740936

Email: info@mooredges.com

Web: www.mooredgesairguns.co.uk

Opening hours: 7 days a week. Mon - Sat 9.00am - 5.30pm. Sun 10.00am - 4.00pm. Open Bank Holidays.

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**BASC**

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Email: info@fieldgear.co.uk

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Credit cards:

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Shotguns: Sabatti, Investarm, etc.

Pellets: RWS, Crosman, Walther, Lanes, etc.

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Tel: 01244 681191 Web: www.tonyscamo.co.uk

Opening hours: Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm, Sun 10am-4pm

Credit cards:

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53 Norris Street, Warrington, Cheshire WA2 7RJ

**BASC**

Tel: 01925 415901

Email: sales@warringtonguns.com

Web: www.warringtonguns.com

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Sat 9am - 4.30pm

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Fax: 01937 505063

Email: info@wighillparkguns.co.uk

Web: www.wighillparkguns.co.uk

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Email: contact@sunderlandairguns.com

Web: www.sunderlandairguns.com

Opening hours: 9.00-5.30 Mon-Fri | 9.00-4.30 Sat

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## EAST

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**BASC**

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Tel: 01234 346648

Fax: 01234 346648

Email: info@bedfordcountypursuits.com



Web: www.bedfordcountypursuits.com

Opening hours: Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 8AM - 5.30PM.

Wed 8AM-7PM. Closed Sunday & Monday.

Credit cards:

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Fax: 01362 854489

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Web: www.onlinegunshop.co.uk

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Line 1: 01205 311246

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Email: stvdnx440@gmail.com

Web: www.countrysportingguns.co.uk

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Tel: 01225 701473

Email: enquiries@countrywidefarmers.co.uk

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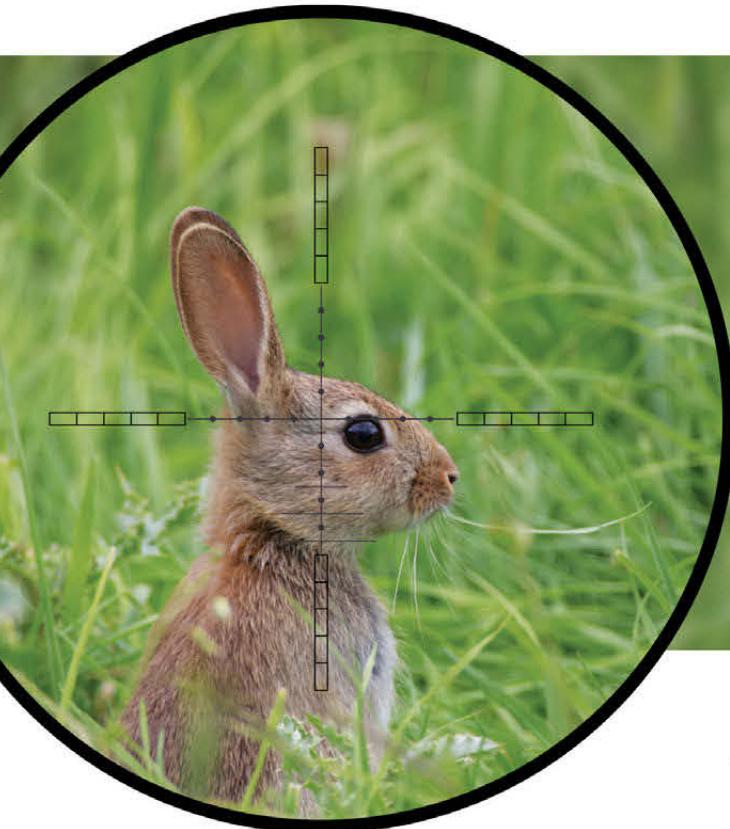
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